

Defiant Serbs Face Imminent NATO Air Strikes

Allies Decide to Take Fateful Step Despite Fears of Broader War

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BRUSSELS — The decision by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to attack a sovereign nation for the first time in its 50-year history represents a momentous transformation for a defensive alliance conceived to protect Western Europe from the an invasion by the Soviet Union.

By taking the fateful step to authorize the bombing of Yugoslavia, the Western allies enter uncharted territory. Unlike the air strikes against Bosnia that led to the Dayton peace agreement, there are no assurances that talks will persuade President Slobodan Milosevic to call off the latest offensive against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

NEWS Indeed, NATO diplomats acknowledge there is a risk that Western air strikes could encourage Serb attempts to broaden the war, either by launching artillery strikes against NATO peacekeepers in Bosnia or by escalating an ethnic cleansing campaign in which a forced exodus of Kosovars could destabilize the neighboring states of Albania and Macedonia.

An expansion of the conflict would undermine a basic goal of U.S. and European policy: to contain the Balkan ethnic wars and prevent a conflagration that would engulf much of southeastern Europe. A major worry is that NATO allies Greece and Turkey could be drawn into opposing sides — if the Greeks move to protect their northern border and the Turks intervene to help fellow Albanian Muslims.

Even if those fears are not realized, the planned NATO air campaign — starting with cruise missile attacks from U.S. warships in the Mediterranean, to be followed by bombing sorties delivered by an armada of more than 400 aircraft — will set an important precedent that some experts believe could come back to haunt the United States and its European allies.

By launching air attacks beyond their own territorial domain against a sovereign state without a clear mandate from the United Nations, the 19 NATO member states can be accused of flouting international law and providing future justification for other countries to ignore the will of the UN Security Council.

Russia's leaders, who have vehemently opposed NATO air strikes, have insisted they will break off relations with the Western military alliance in the event of attacks against their Slavic brothers. While Germany and other European states have expressed anxiety about alienating Russia, NATO officials say Moscow's dismay was never a prime factor in

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Ethnic Albanians who fled Kosovo waiting Tuesday to be registered at a police station in Skopje, Macedonia.

Primakov, Flying to U.S., Turns Back

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov canceled high-level meetings in Washington on Tuesday, ordering his plane to turn around and fly back to Moscow because of anticipated NATO air attacks on Yugoslavia, Russian and U.S. officials said.

The Russian news agency Itar-Tass reported that Mr. Primakov, who had taken off from a refueling stop in Ireland en route to Washington, was returning to Moscow.

The State Department announced that Mr. Primakov had put off his visit.

The decision apparently came after a phone conversation with Vice President Albert Gore.

Mr. Primakov's visit, which was shaping up as the most important of his six months in office, was designed to

persuade the International Monetary Fund to resume lending to Russia so it could repay \$4.5 billion in debts to the agency due this year.

Cancellation of the visit could be a serious setback for Prime Minister Primakov's hopes of restoring the IMF lending, which is also the key to unlocking potential loans from other countries and from international lending organizations.

Without the loans, Russia faces the prospect of further declines in the exchange rate of the ruble and depletion of its low currency reserves.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Primakov and other Russian officials strenuously reiterated Moscow's opposition to air strikes. "Russia is categorically opposed to air strikes in Kosovo and military action cannot be justified on any grounds," Mr.

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Oil Producers Agree to Cut Output

The Dollar		
New York	Tuesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.0915	1.0913
Pound	1.6382	1.6382
Yen	116.075	116.115
DM	1.792	1.7933
FF	6.0099	6.0144
Dollars per pound and per euro		
The Dow		
Tuesday close	percent change	
—218.69	9,671.83	—2.21%
S&P 500		
—34.57	1,252.14	—2.85%
Nasdaq		
—73.09	2,322.85	—3.05%

4 Nations Join OPEC in Push to Lift Prices

By Youssef M. Ibrahim
New York Times Service

VIENNA — OPEC and four independent major oil producers clinched a far-reaching agreement Tuesday to cut world oil production by 2.1 million barrels a day for a year in a bid to lift sagging oil prices.

The pact comes on top of two earlier moves by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries that shut down another 3 million barrels a day in March and June of last year, bringing the total to 5.2 million barrels a day being removed from world oil markets in a 13-month period.

The agreement, which goes into effect next month, calls for OPEC's 10 members to reduce oil output by 1.7 million barrels a day. In a rare show of solidarity, Norway, Mexico, Russia and Oman joined the oil cartel in vowing to shut down 400,000 barrels a day of their production, suggesting a worldwide alliance is shaping concerted action to stem a decade-long slide in oil prices.

Until two years ago, these independent producers shunned any se-

rious cooperation, paying only lip service to OPEC efforts to shore up collapsing oil prices.

"A new spirit of cooperation between oil exporting countries has brought clear results," said Ali Naimi, the Saudi Arabia oil minister who led the effort for months to orchestrate these production restraints. He noted the agreement had strong political underpinning. "Several heads of state directly participated in these negotiations by telephone," Mr. Naimi said Tuesday.

Saudi officials said Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the effective ruler of Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer of oil, joined President Mohammed Khatami of Iran and the heads of state of Venezuela, Algeria and Mexico and the Gulf states to support the pact.

"I am very happy to see a new spirit in OPEC," said the cartel's president Youssef Yousfi, Algeria's oil minister. "To those who doubted our resolve, we have proven with our solidarity we can exceed expectations."

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A Yugoslav soldier running to avoid sniper fire Tuesday near Pristina.

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Amid Gunfire, Pristina Waits in Fear

Serbian Police Units Surround Violence-Wracked Capital of Kosovo

By Peter Finn
Washington Post Service

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — For most of the last year, this gray city situated in a valley with smoke-fouled air and the cluttered character of a bazaar, has largely escaped the violence that scarred the surrounding province of Kosovo.

But this week, with NATO air strikes threatening, a grim foreboding is strangling Pristina. The provincial capital of 200,000 — seen by ethnic Albanian separatists as a future seat of government and by the Belgrade government as a nest of sedition — was ringed Monday night by police checkpoints manned by hostile Serbian police units from the Ministry of Interior.

Gunfire rang out in residential neighborhoods and artillery thundered in the distance.

Late in the day, a bomb hurled through the doorway exploded in a café popular among ethnic Albanians, wounding two people.

Another restaurant was reportedly sprayed with gunfire. As most bars and restaurants closed, residents began stockpiling food and water, anticipating shortages they are certain will accompany any attack by planes or troops of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

A withering offensive since the weekend by government security forces against villages identified with the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army has spread to Pristina in other ways.

About 10,000 refugees have arrived since last week, adding to the 29,000

already known to be here, according to humanitarian organizations.

Many new arrivals are finding a setting only marginally less violent than the burned-out villages they are fleeing. Yugoslav troops and Serbian special police units patrol the capital in armored vehicles, a rare sight just weeks ago.

On Sunday night, four Serbian policemen were gunned down in an ambush, the deadliest attack yet on Serbian forces in the city.

With the offices of international peace monitors boarded up since their departure from Kosovo last Saturday — and many foreign aid workers and journalists leaving the province — Belgrade officials are moving against other

concern of Japanese officials, and state-run NHK and other television stations quoted anonymous officials as suggesting a North Korean connection.

Japan's response was startling, for foreign vessels often sneak into Japanese waters to fish or drop off smuggled cargoes or illegal aliens without generating nearly so serious a response.

The reaction strongly suggested that Japanese officials had intelligence about the two vessels that they were not sharing.

The incident underscores Japan's increasing assertiveness in security affairs and may complicate relations between the West and North Korea.

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Japanese Chase 2 Suspicious Vessels

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Japanese patrol boats and aircraft spotted and chased two vessels with false markings on Tuesday and then fired warning shots in an attempt to force them to stop.

The authorities said it was the first time in 46 years that Japan had fired warning shots and the first time in the postwar era that Japan had sent destroyers to chase suspicious vessels.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi convened an emergency meeting of key cabinet officials at his residence Tuesday night as Japanese ships and planes continued to pursue the two mysterious vessels.

The government did not accuse North Korea of being behind the incident, but it clearly regarded the intrusion of the two vessels as a military matter.

As a result, the government invoked Japan's right to self-defense under which the nation's Self-Defense Forces are authorized to try to board the suspicious vessels, which fled north into Russian international waters.

"We decided to take the measures at sea to protect people's lives and property and ensure security," the chief government spokesman, Hiromu Nonaka, said at a news conference. The military was brought into the affair after the Maritime Safety Agency was unable to catch the two vessels in a long chase.

North Korea is now the main security

A Paraguay Chief Is Slain

Attack on Vice President Follows Power Struggle

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ASUNCION, Paraguay — Gunmen assassinated Paraguay's vice president in central Asuncion on Tuesday, the latest blow to a nation torn by a power struggle in the party that has ruled it for half a century.

The vice president, Luis Maria Argana, a bitter rival of Paraguay's president, was killed on his way to his office Tuesday morning. Witnesses said three gunmen in military dress swarmed their white car in front of Mr. Argana's red jeep, threw a grenade and sprayed him, his driver and bodyguard with bullets.

Mr. Argana's aides said he was riddled with 10 gunshot wounds. Argana's driver died, but his bodyguard appeared to have survived. Paraguayan authorities closed the borders immediately, and no flights were allowed into the country, while diplomats from neighboring Argentina warned nationals not to travel there.

The assassination ratcheted up the political tension in a country where President Raul Cubas has been leading off recent calls for impeachment. Paraguay has been the scene of months of bitter political infighting.

In a nationwide address, the president appealed for calm.

President Cubas — whose faction of the ruling Colorado Party is controlled by a convicted coup leader, Lino Oviedo, and which has fought the vice president for control of the party — said that Mr. Argana, 66, had appointed his own bodyguards rather than using state security personnel.

Mr. Argana's distraught supporters and opposition leaders gathered outside the hospital and laid the responsibility for the killing, if not the blame, at the door of Mr. Cubas and his mentor, Mr. Oviedo, a former army chief.

AGENDA

Anwar Trial Ends As Tempers Flare

The trial of Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's ousted deputy prime minister, abruptly ended Tuesday with defense lawyers refusing to make closing arguments and the judge declaring them in contempt of court.

After a sharp exchange of words with the defense lawyers, Judge Augustine Paul declared the trial over, said he would deliver his verdict on April 6 and told Mr. Anwar that he could provide written submissions if he wanted to.

If convicted, Mr. Anwar faces 14 years in jail or a 20,000 ringgit (\$5,260) fine — or both — on each of four charges filed against him.

He is accused of ordering police officers to cover up allegations of sexual indiscretion. Page 6.

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The Internet on-line www.ihl.com

Newsstand Prices		
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon 11.3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco 18 Dh
Cameroun	1.600 CFA	Qatar 10.00 QR
Egypt	5.50 FF	Réunion 12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia 10 SR
Gabon	1.100 CFA	Senegal 1.100 CFA
Italy	3.000 Lire	Spain 250 Ptas
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA	Tunisia 1.250 Dh
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E. 10.00 Dh
Suway	700 Fils	U.S. Mtl. (Eur.) \$1.20

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Hero's Twilight Years / Popularity Defies Critics

As Retirement Nears, Mandela's Charm Endures

By Suzanne Daley
New York Times Service

PRETORIA — The pink light of dawn washed over the runway at Waterkloof Air Force Base near here as Nelson Mandela settled into a specially padded seat aboard his presidential jet. The flight attendant knelt to remove his shoes and, in what seemed like a well-worn routine, helped him lift his swollen legs high on to two pillows.

It was the start of a working day for the 80-year-old president that would include a visit to a rural backwater, moving from the luxurious jet to an army helicopter for a hot, bumpy, hourlong ride there and another back.

There would also be meetings in Pretoria: business executives, an envoy from Uganda, the president of Namibia, then more executives. In the evening, he would address an auditorium full of white farmers to laud a new anti-crime program.

His day would end 15 hours after it had started, a grueling schedule that is not unusual for him, even in the twilight of his presidency.

After nearly five years in office, Mr. Mandela is still beloved, a leader who can scold an audience for two hours and still get a standing ovation.

His popularity crosses all racial lines and is such an absolute in South Africa that even opposition leaders attacking his party, the African National Congress, pause to make it clear that they do not mean him, too. In a recent national survey, 43 percent of those asked to rate his performance gave him a perfect 10.

In stark contrast to the leaders of many African countries, who use imperiousness to make themselves seem imperial, he always strives to charm. He works crowds instead of stalking past them. He waits for the answer when he asks, "How are you?"

He makes rueful, tongue-in-cheek comments about becoming old and unemployed with a new wife to support. (Last July, he married Graca Machel, widow of the Mozambican president, after divorcing Winnie Mandela.) When choruses sing to him, he dances his trademark jig.

But he can be cranky, too. The charm comes on at the stops. In between, he hardly speaks.

As he nears his self-imposed retirement, he seems reluctant to talk about himself. His aides, responding to an avalanche of requests for interviews, tell journalists aboard his jet, but he is clearly not thrilled about it. He says the attention should now go to Thabo Mbeki, the deputy president, who is virtually certain to be president after the June 2 elections.

Agreeing to answer a few questions on a recent flight from the air force base, Mr. Mandela instantly dismissed the first: What does he consider his greatest accomplishments as president? "Such a question is very important and should be put in writing first," he snapped.

In any case, he added: "They are not my accomplishments. Everything I have done is to do with the ANC."

Few others see it that way. As president, Mr. Mandela has had an unfailing knack for gestures that united this deeply divided country, gestures that perhaps no other man could or would have made. He will no doubt be remembered more for them than for any particular policy — and for making them for white whites, whose leaders put him in prison for 27 years simply because he dared to want to be their equal.

Indeed, beneath the gestures, he has left much of the day-to-day running of the country to Mr. Mbeki,



Ever the charmer, Mr. Mandela makes rueful comments about becoming old and unemployed with a new wife to support, after having married Graca Machel, widow of the Mozambican president.

and he rarely speaks about specific government programs.

Mr. Mandela has also repeatedly and reassuringly signaled that his government will abide by democratic principles. The first time the new Constitutional Court rebuffed the African National Congress, Mr. Mandela publicly accepted the verdict and expressed delight at the court's independence. Last year, in a case brought by the rugby league boss questioning Mr. Mandela's decision-making process, he became the first president to testify in court. His advisers opposed it, but he insisted, saying the subpoena's legality could be fought over later.

He has also promoted charity, dragging the lords of big business to desperate rural areas far from their vacation homes. No one dares say no to him, so new schools and clinics sprang in his wake, wrenched out of the ground with a little corporate arm-twisting. In the last year, he has made 30 such trips, all successful, he said.

IN FOREIGN policy, he has shepherded the country back into the world's favor, rejoining the Commonwealth and pushing for a seat on the United Nations Security Council. He pursues firm nonaligned status, getting along with Israel and the Palestinians, with Cuba and the United States. He poses for pictures with everyone from Colonel Moammar Gadhafi to Michael Jackson.

In pursuit of that, he travels widely. He made nearly 50 trips abroad during his first three years in office. Some were attempts to broker peace in African wars; most promoted foreign investment.

That played well at home, too. After decades in which white South Africans were international polecats and black ones were faceless victims, both are able to bask in the glow of watching him being feted by world leaders, whether sitting in the carriage of Queen Elizabeth II or talking tough to the World Economic Forum.

Tom Lodge, a political analyst with the University of Witwatersrand, said: "He has been a hero more than president."

In choosing the role of statesman rather than administrator, Mr. Mandela has also helped assure a smooth transition. In the early days, the rand dropped every time he looked tired; now, the prospect of his departure causes no panic, since Mr. Mbeki has been virtually running the country for years.

Mr. Mandela is not without his critics. Some say he should have been more hands-on, others say he had serious lapses in judgment.

Why, they ask, was former President Suharto of Indonesia, a man suspected of looting his country's treasury and with a questionable human rights record, given South Africa's highest humanitarian award?

And how could Mr. Mandela have sent his justice minister to welcome home from America the anti-apartheid activist Allan Boesak, who was returning to face serious fraud charges? His loyalty to Mr. Boesak was so deep that he helped raise defense funds and criticized the prosecutor's case, for which he later apologized.

MR. MANDELA is also accused of tolerating incompetent cabinet ministers whom he personally likes and even some who are under serious suspicion of corruption.

When reports surfaced that the thin-skinned Mr. Mbeki was forcing out talented rivals such as Cyril Ramaphosa, Tokyo Sexwale or Terror Lekota, Mr. Mandela did little to keep them from leaving for the business world or being sidelined to unimportant posts.

Some say Mr. Mandela has grown tired in the job and is not always at his best these days. He is impatient, attacks the news media, and frequently lashes out at whites, though some say he does not make clear what he wants from them. Though in the early days he often talked of needing to keep whites here, he has lately suggested that the country was well rid of those who have fled to Australia or Canada because of crime and affirmative action.

Talking on his plane, Mr. Mandela shrugged off some of his critics' biggest fears: that his party wants a two-thirds majority so it can rewrite the constitution to hobble watchdog agencies, and that it is unable to keep rising crime from chasing business, and thus prosperity, away.

He calls the ANC's ambitions only natural. "As far as I am aware every political party in the world wants to be stronger," he said.

And South Africa's crime situation, he insists, is nothing new.

Blacks, he said, have always had to live with crime; the only thing new is that it is now affecting whites.

As the elections approach, he sounds more and more partisan. Last fall, he angrily called the country's opposition parties "Mickey Mouse parties."

Speaking recently in Houghton, the largely white suburb where he lives, he told the audience that they had made their first serious mistake by supporting apartheid. Now, he said, they are making a second by shunning the ANC, which draws few white voters.

Opposition parties, he said, are not vital to democracy and play no useful purpose. "Don't," he warned, "be supporters of lost causes."

But, again, against his handlers' instructions, he took questions, spoke till he was hoarse and plunged into the crowd to shake hands.

And, despite his occasional irritability, his sense of humor often triumphs. After the "Mickey Mouse" crack, one opposition leader, Tony Leon, had shot back that Mr. Mandela was "running a Goofy government" that had failed to deliver on services.

A few weeks later, Mr. Mandela was visiting a hospitalized friend when he heard that Mr. Leon was also there, recovering from heart bypass surgery. He approached Mr. Leon's bed from behind the curtains. "Mickey Mouse," he called out in a deep voice. "This is Goofy come to see you."

Arafat Likely to Delay Statehood Declaration

May 4 'Sacred Date' Expected to Be Ignored

By Deborah Sontag
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat has always been a master of the tightrope, and once more his acrobatic skills are being put to the test.

In the West Bank and Gaza, Mr. Arafat faces mounting pressure to declare a Palestinian state May 4. That is the day when a five-year transitional period of limited self-rule, established under the Oslo peace agreement with Israel, was supposed to be completed.

But internationally, the Palestinian president faces equally strong pressure to defer any declaration, as many say it could provoke Israel to react militarily and rupture the fragile understandings built through years of diplomacy.

Many Israeli, Palestinian and U.S. experts say they believe that Mr. Arafat is leaning toward delaying a statehood proclamation. Although he has consistently referred to May 4 as a "sacred date," he has dropped a couple of public hints in recent days that he would be willing to let it pass without making history.

"We will have an independent state sooner or later," Mr. Arafat said in Sweden on Sunday, brushing off a question about May 4. "It's a matter of time."

There are many reasons he may not be eager to rush a declaration of statehood. The most important is that he would not want to make an empty pronouncement. That would invite comparisons to 1988 when, while still in exile, he issued from Algiers a declaration of independence that many Palestinians have since mocked.

"It's not like he can declare statehood and everything is transformed," said Itamar Rabinowitz, a professor at Tel Aviv University, a former peace negotiator and former Israeli ambassador to Washington. "The calculus is complex for Arafat. Over what territory does he announce statehood? If it's only the land they have so far, why bother? If it's more, then he draws lines that make future negotiations difficult. And there will be future negotiations no matter what."

Also, many believe that a declaration of statehood by Arafat would enhance Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's chances of re-election later in May by scaring or angering potential Israeli swing voters, pushing them to support his rightist candidacy. If Mr. Netanyahu launched a retaliatory military action — by annexing parts of the West Bank, as he has threatened — many Israelis would rally behind him.

Still, Mr. Arafat is clearly seeking international guarantees that he can present to his people, evidence that there will be a payoff for a posthumous. This might include pledges to accept a future Palestinian state, promises of more financial assistance or limited but immediate recognition of Palestinian sovereignty by international institutions that lend money, issue satellite frequencies and mediate trade disputes.

In the past two months, Mr. Arafat has traveled in Europe and the Arab world extensively, from Finland to Bahrain. He meets this week with President Bill Clinton in Washington.

It is highly unlikely that Mr. Clinton would promise diplomatic recognition of a Palestinian state. The White House has long insisted that both Israelis and Palestinians refrain from taking any unilateral action on the issues — such as statehood — that are supposed to be hammered out in final-status negotiations between them.

But Mr. Clinton gives Mr. Arafat a kind of international recognition just by meeting with him in the White House — especially given what the Israelis have dubbed the American "snub diplomacy" toward their prime minister.

Mr. Netanyahu has not visited the White House at all this year, although Yitzhak Mordechai, his former defense minister who is challenging him for prime minister in the May 17 elections, was a guest there last week.

As Mr. Arafat flew to Washington on Monday, Mr. Netanyahu was in Russia, prompting some sarcastic commentary from Israeli columnists.

"There was a time when Israeli politicians were invited to Washington and

Arab leaders went to Moscow," Akiva Eldor wrote in the daily Ha'aretz on Monday morning.

If Mr. Arafat does delay a statehood declaration, it is likely to be only a short delay. After the Israeli elections, the new prime minister will have to move quickly to re-establish peace negotiations, analysts say.

■ EU Drafting a Declaration

The European Union is working on a declaration that would support the right of Palestinians to their own state and tell Israel it should not veto its creation, diplomatic sources said Tuesday, Reuters reported from Jerusalem.

The move is part of a coordinated effort by the United States and the EU to discourage Mr. Arafat from proceeding with the unilateral proclamation of a state May 4.

The sources said EU foreign ministers discussed a draft text at a meeting in Brussels on Monday but failed to finalize it, casting doubt on whether the declaration would be ready for adoption at an EU summit meeting in Berlin this week.

A European source said phone discussions on the draft were continuing Tuesday.

Diplomats said some member states had differed over how closely recognition of a Palestinian right to statehood should be linked to negotiations with Israel and whether a time limit, possibly 12 months, should be put on that process.

Some diplomats said Germany and Britain also were concerned that a declaration by Mr. Arafat might alienate Israelis before their elections, in which Mr. Netanyahu is campaigning on a platform of opposition to Palestinian statehood.

MIT Details Wide Bias of Female Staff

New York Times Service

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts — Top officials at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the most prestigious science and engineering university in the United States, have issued a report acknowledging that female professors were suffering from pervasive, if unintentional, discrimination.

"I have always believed that contemporary gender discrimination within universities is real reality and part perception," the president of the university, Charles Vest, said in comments to be published in the faculty newsletter within days and that have been already posted on the World Wide Web.

"True, but I now understand that reality is by far the greater part of the balance," Mr. Vest said.

His comments introduced a report, compiled over five years, that documents a pattern of sometimes subtle, but substantive and demoralizing, discrimination in areas from hiring, awards, promotions and inclusion on important committees to allocation of valuable resources like laboratory space and research money.

Such discrimination, national experts say, continues and in some ways has worsened at institutions across the country, despite the growing number of female professors.

In a report issued last month, the American Association of University Professors found that though women now make up 34 percent of faculties nationwide, up from 23 percent in 1975, the gap between salaries for male and female professors widened in that period.

Female faculty members involved with the Massachusetts report say they do not believe the institute discriminates more than other top-flight universities. It is simply more willing to admit it and address the problem, they say.

A hard push to increase the number of tenured female professors is already well under way, according to the report, along with other efforts to redress inequities in the allocation of resources.

Spotlight Turns to Police Chief as More New Yorkers Protest Killing

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As the New York City police commissioner, Howard Safir, came under mounting criticism, 141 people, including State Comptroller H. Carl McCall, have been arrested in the largest act of civil disobedience yet protesting the police shooting of Amadou Diallo.

The protest Monday was held just after Mr. Safir was forced to defend his officers at a City Council hearing into the police department's street-crime unit. Four officers from that unit fired a total of 41 shots at Mr. Diallo, an unarmed West African immigrant, killing

him in the vestibule of his Bronx apartment building on Feb. 4.

Before the hearing, Mr. Safir's aides said he might not testify at the City Council hearing because of a scheduling conflict. But after being photographed at the Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles on Sunday night, the commissioner flew back to New York to attend the hearing at City Hall.

The size of the protest Monday — several hundred people marched outside police headquarters in lower Manhattan, and the number of protesters arrested was the highest yet in the case — indicated that public anger over Mr. Diallo's shooting was still strong nearly seven weeks after the incident.

Singing "We Shall Overcome," Mr. McCall, the highest-ranking black elected official in New York state, blocked the entrance to police headquarters and was arrested along with Earl Graves, the publisher of Black Enterprise magazine; Ed Lewis, the publisher of Essence magazine; the comedian Dick Gregory, and dozens of lawyers and several City Council members fresh from their hearing on the police department.

All were handcuffed, following police guidelines, as Representative Charles Rangel, Democrat of New York, and

former Mayor David Dinkins were when they were arrested during similar protests last week.

But the main political drama Monday was at the city council hearing, where council members had been eagerly awaiting a chance to question Mr. Safir only to be rebuffed by his office over the past few days.

Police officials refused to say whether Mr. Safir's scheduling conflict with the council hearing had involved the Oscars, but the photos of the commissioner in Los Angeles in black tie proved embarrassing, given what was going on back home.

Police officials refused to say whether Mr. Safir's scheduling conflict with the council hearing had involved the Oscars, but the photos of the commissioner in Los Angeles in black tie proved embarrassing, given what was going on back home.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Visitors Despoil Malaysian Park

TAMAN NEGARA, Malaysia (AP) — On jungle trails canopied by trees and creepers deep inside Taman Negara, the ancient rain forest, nature-lovers are leaving behind more than their footprints. Water bottles, soda cans and chewing gum wrappers litter many of the popular trails inside Taman Negara, Malaysia's largest national park and one of Southeast Asia's most popular eco-tourism destinations.

Plastic garbage bags are festooned like tiny bunches of flowers to the mangroves along the Tembeling river. "The garbage problem has always been one of major concern," said Sabri Zain, a spokesman for Malaysia's World Wide Fund for Nature. Most of the waste is not biodegradable, and it is too expensive to retrieve plastic to recycle it.

Web Site Lists Tips for Fast Drivers

BOSTON (AP) — Travelers in the United States trying to avoid speed traps can check a Web site called: speedtrap.com, where motorists have posted details on thousands of speed traps around the country, including location, average fine, the type of car police use and the local scanner frequency. Some law enforcement officials applaud the site.

Smoking will be banned on Kuwait Airways flights that are two hours or less. The ban will start Nov. 1 and will be put into effect gradually. (AP)

The U.S. Embassy in Damascus will resume its full range of consular services April 5. The operations were suspended for more than three months after hundreds of Syrian demonstrators attacked the U.S. and British embassies Dec. 19 to protest the two nations' air strikes on Iraq. (AP)

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe				North America				Asia			
City	High	Low	Wind	City	High	Low	Wind	City	High	Low	Wind
Amsterdam	16.64	12.57	10.61	London	15.62	10.61	10.61	Beijing	23.72	15.62	10.61
Paris	15.62	10.61	10.61	New York	15.62	10.61	10.61	Tokyo	23.72	15.62	10.61
Brussels	15.62	10.61	10.61	Los Angeles	15.62	10.61	10.61	Sydney	23.72	15.62	10.61
Berlin	15.62	10.61	10.61	Hong Kong	23.72	15.62	10.61	Manila	23.72	15.62	10.61
Moscow	15.62	10.61	10.61	Seoul	23.72	15.62	10.61	Bangkok	23.72	15.62	10.61
St. Petersburg	15.62	10.61	10.61	Osaka	23.72	15.62	10.61	Hanoi	23.72	15.62	10.61
Warsaw	15.62	10.61	10.61	Kobe	23.72	15.62	10.61	Yokohama	23.72	15.62	10.61
Prague	15.62	10.61	10.61	Sapporo	23.72	15.62	10.61	Ulsan	23.72	15.62	10.61
Vienna	15.62	10.61	10.61	Yokohama	23.72	15.62	10.61	Daegu	23.72	15.62	10.61
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THE AMERICAS

Diabetes Drug and Approval Time Come Under Scrutiny

By John Schwartz
Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — When Jo Ann Ottumers began taking her new diabetes medicine, the drug suddenly made it much easier for the 59-year-old to keep her blood sugar levels from rising dangerously high. But soon the Kansas City, Missouri, woman began feeling nauseated and weak.

Ms. Ottumers finally stopped taking the drug after discovering on the Internet that it could cause rare but life-threatening liver damage. But her health continued to decline, and 16 months after she began taking the drug she was forced to undergo a liver transplant. She has since sued Warner-Lambert, the company that makes the drug, Rezulin.

Warner-Lambert insists that Rezulin is safe if patients are monitored closely. Nevertheless, because of dozens of cases like Ms.

Ottumers's, the Food and Drug Administration will consider this week whether regulation of its use should be tightened. Twenty-eight deaths and seven liver transplants are believed linked to the drug.

The questions about Rezulin illustrate a larger debate that is raging over the safety of the medicines that millions of Americans take every day. Pressured by Congress, AIDS activists and drug companies in recent years, the historically cautious drug-safety agency is approving more drugs than ever before, taking half the time to do it.

Consumer advocates, and even some of the agency's own drug reviewers, argue that the agency is putting lives at risk. Five drugs have been pulled off the market over the last two years — a record for such a short time — after dozens of deaths were linked to their use.

The agency insists that its evaluation processes are still the world

standard for safety. "I do not believe the standards have been lowered," said Murray Lumpkin, who heads the agency's drug safety programs. "There is no way that we will completely eliminate the risk from the process. If we have drugs with no risks, we will have no drugs."

The record number of drugs pulled off the market is, in fact, in line with the historic 2 percent to 3 percent withdrawal rate for new drugs, said Kenneth Kaitin, director of the Tufts University Center for the Study of Drug Development. With so many new medicines being approved, Mr. Kaitin said, the number of withdrawals is bound to climb as well. "We're still not any different and not any greater than we have been in the past," he said.

But even if the rate of problem drugs has not increased, drug safety experts say the increased pace of drug approvals means that more problem drugs are bound to make it

onto the market. And they argue that more should be done to catch problems quickly.

"My concern isn't these disasters," said Brian Strom, a professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. "My concern is the disasters that are under way that we don't know about. No one's minding the store."

Critics point out that the drug-safety agency's lead reviewer of Rezulin, John Gueriguian, opposed its approval and was removed from considering the application. Mr. Gueriguian said he found the company's safety testing inadequate and its claims of efficacy unconvincing. Even more, he said, his review of animal studies and clinical trials, revealing rare signs of jaundice, signaled hidden dangers.

The Food and Drug Administration said it does not remove reviewers because of their positions on drugs, but would not elaborate on

why Mr. Gueriguian was removed. Warner-Lambert officials said Mr. Gueriguian used inappropriate language in criticizing the company and its application during meetings in September 1996.

An affidavit by a Warner-Lambert official supplied to The Washington Post by the company referred to a meeting in which "Dr. Gueriguian removed a bottle of what appeared to be cologne from his desk" and said that he had to pour it over the application "because it smelled like garbage" and exorcism.

As evidence mounted that some patients could be harmed or killed by the drug, the agency changed the labeling on the drug — not once but three times — to require more extensive testing of patient liver function. Since that time, confirmed reports of liver damage have dropped, but the agency continues to receive unconfirmed reports of damage.

POLITICAL NOTES

Ignoring Abuse of the Elderly

WASHINGTON — Complaints about the abusive treatment of elderly people in nursing homes are often ignored for many months by state and federal officials, according to congressional investigators. Relatives of people who have died in nursing homes told Congress they were outraged that no one had looked into their complaints about substandard care.

William Scanlon, director of health-care studies at the General Accounting Office, said the government would spend \$39 billion on nursing-home care this year but that complaints about serious harm to nursing-home residents "often go uninvestigated."

Mr. Scanlon said federal officials did little to prod, supervise or monitor the states, which are responsible for the initial investigations.

Mr. Scanlon and two relatives of nursing-home residents testified at a hearing of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

The accounting office found that one-fourth of the 17,000 U.S. nursing homes had deficiencies that caused "immediate jeopardy or actual harm" to residents. Most fines and other penalties proposed by the government are never actually imposed, and nursing homes that correct deficiencies often violate the law again, the auditors said. (NYT)

Gore to UAW: 'We Need to Talk'

DES MOINES, Iowa — Vice President Al Gore defended the Clinton administration's trade policies before labor activists who warned him they were not satisfied with his answers.

"You know why I'm here," Mr. Gore said. "We need to talk."

The vice president attended a conference of the United Auto Workers and ran into a huzzaw of questions about the North American Free Trade Agreement, which was fought hard by labor but pushed by Mr. Clinton.

"We are of the opinion that NAFTA does not work," said Dave Neil, leader of the Iowa branch of the UAW. "We have not agreed with you on every issue," Mr. Gore said. "You are keenly aware of that. I am keenly aware of that."

Both Mr. Clinton's and Mr. Gore's relations with organized labor have been cool, and the meeting underscored those tensions.

"If you want perfection, keep on looking," said Mr. Gore. "If you want someone who agrees with you 100 percent of the time, keep on looking." (AP)

Away From Politics

•The two-star admiral in charge of the U.S. Navy's air forces in the Mediterranean was formally relieved of his duties after an investigation found that he had an adulterous affair with a civilian and then lied about it to investigators.

The officer, Rear Admiral Paul Semko, received a punitive letter of reprimand for violating Article 133 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which prohibits "conduct unbecoming an officer." (NYT)

•Medicare has paid about \$50 million in the last seven years to Christian Science facilities that treat sick people with prayer instead of traditional medicine, and critics are challenging those payments in federal court as an unconstitutional government endorsement of religion. (WP)

•A body found in the trunk of a burned-out rental car has been identified by the police in Miwok Village, California, as that of 42-year-old Carole Sund, who disappeared last month near Yosemite National Park. But they have been unable to identify a second body in the car and appeared to be no closer to solving the mystery of what happened to Mrs. Sund, her 15-year-old daughter Julie and 16-year-old Silvina Pelosso, a visiting exchange student from Argentina. Both young women are missing. (Reuters)

Kevorkian Opens Defense, Citing 'Excusable Homicide'

By Edward Walsh
Washington Post Staff Writer

PONTIAC, Michigan — Jack Kevorkian, the tireless advocate of assisted suicide who has helped dozens of people die, has gone on trial for a fifth time here, but this time for murder — the televised death of a 52-year-old man to whom he gave lethal drugs.

The 70-year-old retired pathologist, who was authorized to conduct his own defense, compared himself Monday to a state executioner or a soldier doing his duty. He asserted that what he did to end the life of Thomas Youk was "another form of excusable homicide."

"Just like the executioner is excused, the soldier is excused, in defense of your own life is excused, this is excused," Dr. Kevorkian said in an opening statement to the jury.

But in his opening statement, the Oakland County assistant prosecutor, John Skrzynski, said that the case, unlike those before it, was not about assisted suicide or the right to die. "Thomas Youk didn't kill himself with Jack Kevorkian's help," he said. "Jack Kevorkian killed Thomas Youk."

"This case is about Jack Kevorkian's right to kill."

The trial reignited the emotional debate over assisted suicide that Dr. Kevorkian has provoked for years and it attracted spectators on both sides of the issue. Inside the Oakland County Courthouse here in Pontiac, members of the Hemlock Society, which supports assisted suicide, mingled with members of Not Dead Yet, an organization for the disabled that strongly opposes the practice.

Dr. Kevorkian acknowledged that he invited this high-risk prosecution as part of his nine-year crusade for the legalization of physician-assisted suicide, which is legal only in Oregon. His previous trials, on charges of assisting in a suicide, ended in three acquittals and a mistrial.

But in this case, he is charged with the murder of Mr. Youk, an Oakland County man who had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease. The progressive, fatal illness eventually leaves victims unable to speak, swallow or move. A videotape of Mr. Youk's death was given to the CBS news program "60 Minutes," which showed excerpts last year. In one scene, Mr. Youk is seen sitting in a wheelchair mumbling responses to Dr. Kevorkian's questions. Another



Dr. Jack Kevorkian talking with consultants and attorneys after opening statements were made in his murder trial in Michigan.

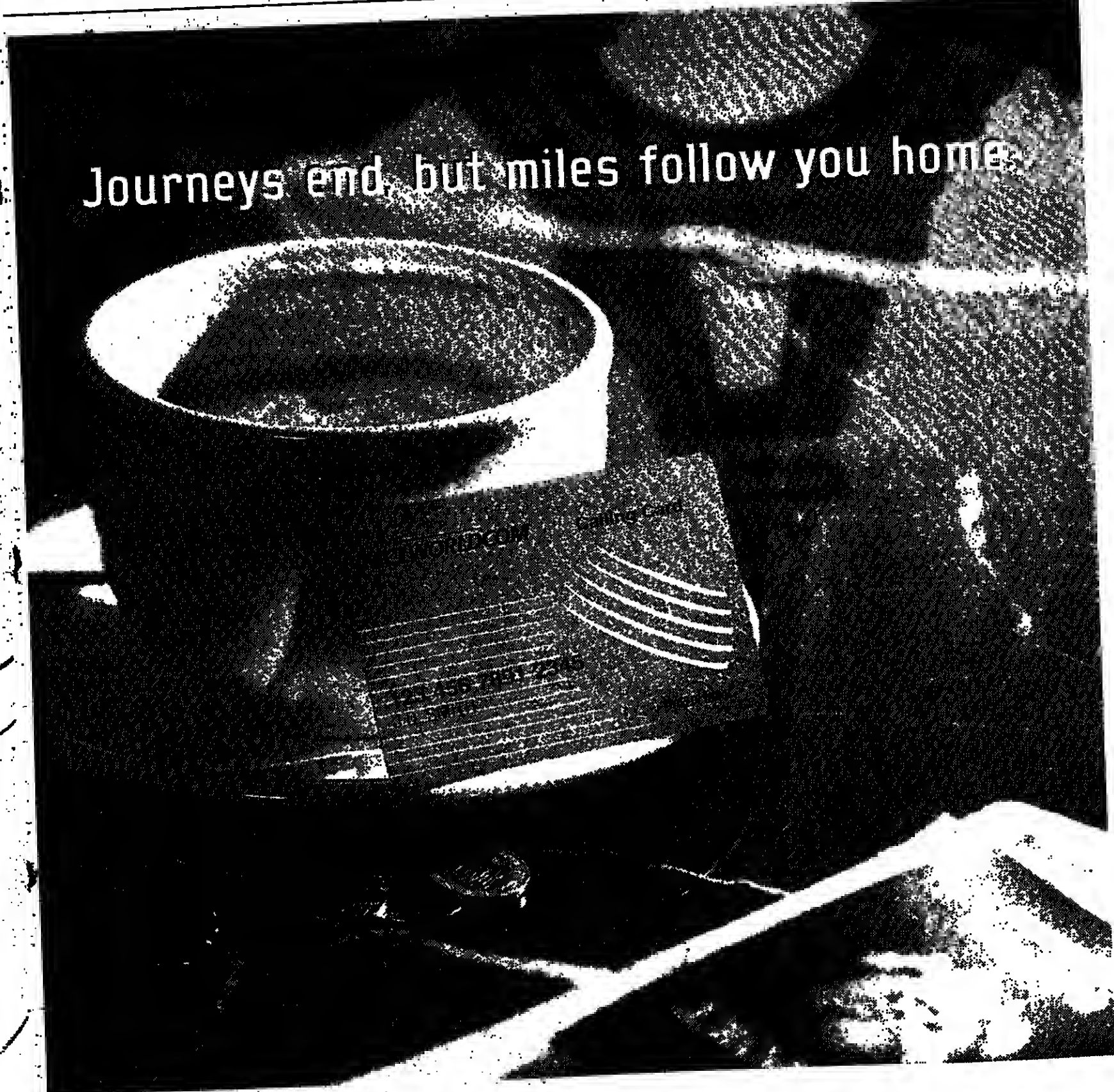
scene shows a man with a needle searching for a vein on Mr. Youk's hand and then injecting him three times.

The videotape appeared to make Dr. Kevorkian's participation in Mr. Youk's death significantly different from his description of his role in the deaths of more than 130 people since 1990. In the earlier cases, Dr. Kevorkian said that the people who sought his help took the final step themselves by releasing a lever on a crude "suicide machine" he built, thereby starting the flow of lethal drugs into their bodies.

Dr. Kevorkian, who has vowed to starve himself to death if imprisoned, has appeared eager for another trial, even on the more serious murder charge, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

"I've got to force them to act," he told a "60 Minutes" correspondent, Mike Wallace, in explaining why he made the videotape public.

Speaking confidently in a firm voice, Dr. Kevorkian said in court Monday that he gave the videotape to the television program so that he could "get into this forum — where this belongs."



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ASIA/PACIFIC

A Japanese Manager Commits Hara-Kiri Over Company Downsizing

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — In a chilling protest that unsettled workers around the country, a disgruntled employee at a major Japanese company denounced the process of corporate restructuring on Tuesday and then committed ritual suicide by stabbing himself in the stomach.

Moments before he slashed his stomach with a 14-inch fish-slicing knife, Masaharu Nonaka, a 58-year-old manager in a business suit, had been in heated talks with the president of Bridgestone Corp., one of the world's largest tire makers, over retirement and personnel practices.

Mr. Nonaka, who was a manager at Bridgestone until 1992, was currently working at one of the company's affiliates and had been asked to step down as a manager in charge of purchasing golf equipment, according to Japanese news reports.

His discontent over personnel matters strikes a deep chord in Japan, which is suffering from record levels of unemployment and a recessionary economy. Few workers vent their frustrations by taking their own lives, and Mr. Nonaka, who leaves a wife and two grown daughters, is certainly an extreme case. But his suicide underscores the psychological distress that workers, managers and families throughout Japan are undergoing as the nation struggles to revive and restructure its economy.

"It's a kind of performance," said Hiroyoshi Ishikawa, a professor of social psychology at Seijo University in Tokyo. "It's a kind of protest of the company policy of restructuring. I think it's a rather rare case in contemporary society."

In modern Japan, hara-kiri, or seppuku, is strictly the stuff of Kabuki drama, and Mr. Nonaka's violent suicide is not the sign of a grisly trend. But in a tradition that stretches back centuries, seppuku, or ritual disembowelment, was part of a rigid code under which samurai warriors killed themselves to avoid disgrace, dishonor and the indignity of defeat.

When the Meiji Emperor died in 1912, General Maresuke Nogai, a hero in the Russian-Japanese

war, committed seppuku, killing his wife along with him, to follow his emperor to the death. He now is commemorated at a shrine in his own name, the Nogi Shrine, in central Tokyo.

Suicide rates have also been rather high in Japan, and in World War II, kamikaze pilots flew to certain death and other soldiers killed themselves to atone for failure in helping Japan win the war.

The last celebrated case of seppuku was in 1970, when Yukio Mishima, a prominent Japanese writer, committed seppuku in pure samurai style after he failed to take over a command post of the Japanese Defense Forces. Mr. Mishima was known for his deeply disturbing and psychologically violent novels, as well as an obsession with death in his later years. After his failed attempt to wrest control of the military post, he took a traditional sword and cut his stomach diagonally. An aide beheaded him in the next moment.

On Tuesday, in a discussion that lasted about an hour in the executive offices with Yoichiro

Kaizaki, Bridgestone's president, Mr. Nonaka had submitted a letter of complaint about the company's policy on retirement and resignation at the affiliate, Bridgestone Sports Co., according to a police spokesman. Suddenly Mr. Nonaka became very agitated. He stripped to the waist, took out a pair of hidden knives and screamed that he was going to commit hara-kiri.

Mr. Kaizaki escaped from the room, where at least two other Bridgestone employees remained with Mr. Nonaka, who was wielding the two sharp knives. At least 40 local policemen were sent to Bridgestone, along with riot police and other patrolmen, the police spokesman said.

Mr. Kaizaki returned and along with several police officers tried to dissuade Mr. Nonaka from doing anything rash. But Mr. Nonaka suddenly stabbed himself, as Bridgestone employees looked on in horror. Immediately, the police rushed in, arrested Mr. Nonaka and took him on a stretcher to a nearby hospital. He died later in the afternoon.

Mr. Nonaka, whom officials at both Bridgestone and its affiliate described as "normal,"

sincere and serious, was two years short of retiring from Bridgestone Sports. He had no record of prior disturbance, and Osamu Tezuka, a spokesman at the affiliate, insisted the company had no intention of forcing him into early retirement. But two years ago, Mr. Nonaka was demoted and his pay was cut, and in October, he was told by the company: "Please step aside for younger ones and think about your next plan in life."

On Tuesday morning, Mr. Nonaka sent an e-mail to all employees in his company, but it was erased before employees could read it.

Bridgestone Corp. has been in the process of restructuring, and since 1993, the company has nudged off the payrolls more than 2,000 employees, leaving 13,000 currently.

"He seemed to be frustrated at his early retirement, even though this happens at other companies," said a Bridgestone spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity. "He received retirement pay, but he also had an option about retirement pay from Bridgestone Sports Company."

Jakarta Sends More Forces To End Strife In Borneo

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SINGAWANG, Indonesia — About 1,000 military and police reinforcements were flown Tuesday to Indonesian Borneo to help end ethnic violence that has claimed more than 200 lives and provoked an exodus of refugees.

The troops left Jakarta for Pontianak, the main city of West Kalimantan, on board five Hercules aircraft.

Lieutenant General Sugiono, the chief of general staff, said the military had been concentrated in towns and areas where refugees sought safety or were awaiting evacuation.

Soldiers are outnumbered and have no control in dozens of villages where indigenous Dayak and Malay men patrol on motorcycles and in trucks. With the reinforcements, there are now about 3,000 troops in Sambas district, where about 900,000 people live.

The violence that erupted in the Sambas district on March 15 initially pitted settlers from the island of Madura, who make up about 10 percent of the population, against the ethnic Malay community. The Malays were later joined by the Dayak tribes. Thousands have fled.

On Tuesday, soldiers fired volleys of gunshots in the air to disperse a mob armed with spears, swords and crudely made guns. Hundreds of ethnic Dayak men in the village of Simpang Monterado had demanded that the troops hand over immigrants from Madura. But the soldiers drove off in a convoy of trucks with a dozen Madurese sheltered beneath a tarpaulin. There were no reports of casualties. (AFP/AP)

Timorese Rights-Watch

Indonesia has formed a 30-member independent body to monitor human rights in East Timor before a vote in July that could lead to independence. Reuters reported Tuesday, citing a report by the official Indonesian press agency, Antara.

"This team aims to unite all East Timorese so they can choose the two options freely without human rights violations in the ballot process," Clementino Dos Reis Amaral, secretary-general of the National Commission on Human Rights, said.



Indonesian forces boarding a military plane Tuesday in Jakarta, bound for West Kalimantan Province.

Top Hong Kong Aide Will Remain in Post

International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — Anson Chan, the top civil servant in Hong Kong and the most potent symbol of continuity in the handover from Britain to China, will remain in his post past retirement age until 2002, the territory's chief executive announced Tuesday.

Mrs. Chan, who had been the second-ranking official under the last British governor, Chris Patten, reportedly felt isolated and ignored when she continued as chief secretary under the chief executive appointed by China, Tung Chee-hwa.

Her close working relationship with Mr. Patten, whose reforms angered the government in Beijing, also led analysts to doubt that the new leadership in Hong Kong would put as much trust in her as Mr. Patten did.

Since the handover in July 1997, there have been reports of Mrs. Chan's frustration over Mr. Tung's tendency to rely on personal appointees for advice, rather than on public officials. Hong Kong had been full of rumors that Mrs. Chan would bow out this year after she reached the mandatory retirement age of 60.

But instead of retiring and despite being blamed in an inquiry this year for the botched opening of Hong Kong's airport last June, Mrs. Chan was persuaded to stay on. Mrs. Chan and Mr. Tung admitted Tuesday they did not always agree, although both insisted their working relationship was excellent.

Fellowship Ends in Flames

Cross in Indian Village Sets Off Religious Conflict

By Celia W. Dugger
New York Times Service

RANALAI, India — The Christian settlement in this village, until this month a thriving community of 1,200 Baptists, is now a smoldering ruin.

Women stumble through jagged remains of mud walls and steep over charred beams, beating their chests, sifting the ashes through their fingers and crying out in sorrow for the homes they have lost.

Christians have lived in Orissa state since the 1930s, and by all accounts it was a place where they and their less numerous Hindu neighbors lived in harmony.

On Christmas, Hindus came to the modest, tin-roofed Baptist church bearing gifts. And each year the Christians hiked up Kharan Hill to apply fresh paint to a big white cross on a giant boulder.

"The cross had been there since before I was born," said K.S. Surya, a school principal who is Christian.

It was this public symbol of their faith that was the source of the conflict that led to the destruction of their community.

The Christians in Ranalai say local members of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, which leads a national coalition government, used the symbol to stir up animosities.

But Bharat Paik, president of the party in the Gajapati district, accuses the Christians of burning down their own houses. His charge is the same one made by Hindu nationalists in Gujarat, in the west, who accused Christians of burning down their own prayer halls.

The dispute began on the night of March 8. Someone climbed Kharan Hill with a bucket of whitewash and turned the Christian cross into a trident, symbol of the Hindu god Shiva, by painting a horn on each end of the horizontal bar.

The next day village elders formed a peace committee of six Christians and six Hindus to resolve the problem. They met under a mango

tree in front of the small schoolhouse and agreed they would let the cross be slowly cleaned by rain. The Christians would no longer give it a fresh coat of whitewash.

But the morning of March 13, villagers awoke to find that someone had washed away the horns that had made the cross a trident.

Tensions festered for two days. Then on March 15, Christians called the local police to report the problem. Three police officials came to the village and another peace committee meeting was held.

This time the Christians, who number about 200 to 250 households, and the Hindus, who total about 50 households, agreed that Hindus would whitewash the boulder, obliterating both symbols.

But, the police say, someone later threw a rock that hit a Hindu on the forehead. Rumors of an attack began to spread.

Sanjeev Marik, the divisional police chief, said events cascaded out of control. The Christians say they believe what happened next was planned.

Rocks began to fly. People were screaming. Some Hindus pulled out homemade guns and shot three Christians in their legs.

Drawn by the hullabaloo, Hindus from nearby villages began converging on Ranalai.

Karnison Karado, a Christian villager, said he saw Hindus pouring gasoline on the thatched rooftops of Christian homes, then throwing matches.

The Christians fled to a field, where they watched their community go up in flames. Not a single one of their homes was left untouched.

In the Hindu part of the village, the homes were untouched.

The police have arrested more than 40 people suspected of involvement in the attacks, most of them Hindus. None of the Hindu villagers would give their names or talk. One said only: "We did not burn their houses. We do not know who did it."

North Korea Frees Son of Its Envoy to Thailand

The Associated Press

BANGKOK — The son of a North Korean diplomat kidnapped by his countrymen two weeks ago was freed Tuesday.

The case of Hong Won Myung has strained relations with Pyongyang almost to the breaking point, with Thai officials upset that North Korean diplomats were involved in a kidnapping on Thai soil and then were reluctant to free the youth even after admitting that they were holding him.

Mr. Hong, 19, said at a news conference at the Thai Foreign Ministry that he had been treated well during his detention in a house outside Bangkok, and he expressed a wish to return to his homeland.

Looking relaxed and healthy, he expressed no rancor against his kidnappers, and he defended his father, whom his embassy has accused of embezzling funds.

Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan said earlier Tuesday that Thailand would expel six North Korean diplomats suspected of having taken part in the kidnapping.

Mr. Hong, his father, Hong Sun Gyong, a former commercial counselor at the North Korean Embassy in Bangkok, and mother were abducted earlier this month. The parents escaped March 9.

The Hong family had disappeared several

weeks before the abduction, after the North Korean Embassy accused the elder Hong of embezzling millions of dollars his government had allocated to pay Thailand for rice. No evidence has surfaced to back up the allegation.

U.S. Pledges Tons of New Food Aid

The United States announced 200,000 tons of new food aid to North Korea, less than a week after Pyongyang agreed to allow U.S. inspections of a suspected nuclear weapons site, Agence France-Presse reported from Washington.

The UN World Food Program will receive 100,000 tons of U.S. corn and corn-soybean blend valued at \$35 million, officials said, while U.S. private aid groups will deliver the remaining 100,000 tons as part of a food-for-work project.

The latter shipment, part of a pilot aid program for growing potatoes, marks the first time Washington has given direct aid to North Korea, officials said.

Following an expected new appeal by the UN food program for North Korea in late June, a senior U.S. official who asked not to be identified, said, "We will consider additional aid."

The United States has maintained a complete trade embargo on North Korea since the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, and the two

countries still do not have diplomatic relations.

The potato project will cover two crop years with an initial planting of American and Chinese potato seeds at up to 20 sites, the senior official said.

"We continue to believe the famine in North Korea is a major disaster, with perhaps the greatest loss of life of any humanitarian emergency this decade," the official said.

Agricultural production this year in North Korea is expected to fall more than 1.5 million tons below the country's minimum requirement, he added.

A consortium of U.S. private voluntary organizations, which have not yet been identified, will supply the seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides at a total cost of \$2 million.

U.S. aid workers will also monitor food distribution to North Koreans working on the potato project, which will target three provinces in the country's hard-hit northeast: North Hamgyong, South Hamgyong, and Ryanggang.

Americans have participated in such monitoring activities in North Korea previously, but only under WFP auspices, the official said.

A U.S. team will visit Pyongyang in April to finalize details of the project, the official said, "and if everything goes well we hope to be planting by May."

BRIEFLY

Hong Kong Court Ends Ban on Flag Defacement

HONG KONG — In a blow to the government, Hong Kong's Court of Appeal ruled Tuesday that a ban on the defacement of Chinese and Hong Kong flags was unconstitutional.

In quashing a conviction of two men for having desecrated the national and territory flags last year, the court said the flag law was not necessary for maintaining public order.

The government said it would appeal the ruling to the highest court, the Court of Final Appeal.

China Firm on Spratlys

MANILA — China stood firm Tuesday over what it claims as a 2,000-year-old stake in the Spratly Islands and will not dismantle concrete

structures it built on a reef also claimed by the Philippines.

The assistant foreign minister of China, Wang Yi, also said Beijing had never offered "joint use" of the facilities on Mischief Reef to the Philippines. "We don't intend to use that term because we think it is not accurate," he said at the end of a two-day meeting with Philippine officials meant to ease tension over the South China Sea islands.

The islands, which straddle one of the busiest sea-lanes in the world, are believed to be rich in oil and mineral resources. (AP)

Malaysia Kills More Pigs

CHUAH, Malaysia — Additional troops were dispatched Tuesday to shoot more than 300,000 pigs in a bid to stop the spread of Japanese encephalitis. Fifty-six people have died and dozens have been hospitalized following an outbreak of the virus, which is latent in infected pigs.

Witnesses said the police closed off the main road leading to the region, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Kuala Lumpur in Negri Sembilan state, and blocked media from entering the area. (Reuters)

Pakistan Displays Missile

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan on Tuesday publicly displayed for the first time a nuclear-capable ballistic missile and vowed to "smash every dirty eye cast toward our sacred land."

The country's ground-to-ground Ghanzi missile, a medium-range weapon test-fired in April last year, was part of a Pakistan Day parade watched by President Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and military chiefs.

Pakistan should not ignore its defense and security while "an enemy is sitting on our borders ready to pounce," Mr. Tarar said in a speech. (Reuters)

INTERNATIONAL

Stop Jailing Dissidents, China Is Told

Agence France-Presse

GENEVA — Germany, on behalf of the European Union, warned China on Tuesday that the imprisonment of dissidents was unacceptable and called for concrete improvements in human rights.

"The action taken against political dissidents in China has placed a great strain on the European-Chinese dialogue on human rights," Joschka Fischer, the German foreign minister, told the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

"We regard the very severe sentences imposed upon civil rights activists as unacceptable," he said on the second day of the annual commission session.

Germany currently holds the six-month presidency of the European Union.

EU foreign ministers in Brussels decided Monday against proposing a resolution condemning Chinese human rights abuses at the commission, which has begun a six-week session.

The move was a setback for international rights agencies, who have urged both the European Union and the United States to take a stronger line with China in the wake of its crackdown on political activists.

The EU's rationale is that confrontation had failed to produce progress — resolutions have never succeeded in passing in Geneva — and that it would be more fruitful to press ahead with dialogue aimed at securing real reforms.

"The EU is willing to engage in a more effective and focused dialogue on human rights and to continue its cooperation with program in support of this process," Mr. Fischer said.

Italians Raise Vatican Issue

Italian leaders on Tuesday pressed President Jiang Zemin of China to open talks with the Vatican, urging an end to a diplomatic standoff over Taiwan and religious rights. The Associated Press reported from Rome.



Jiang Zemin, center, in Rome on Tuesday before traveling to Milan.

Rome's mayor raised the matter directly, and publicly, with the Chinese leader, appealing to Mr. Jiang to respond to an overture by Roman Catholic Church leaders.

"For us, it would be wonderful news to receive a simple signal of willingness to dialogue in this area," Mayor Francesco Rutelli said, adding that it could lead to resolution of the question of religious liberties in China.

Mr. Jiang, sitting next to Mr. Rutelli at a reception at City Hall, listened, but made no response.

BRIEFLY

Russian Jets Found In Transit at Baku

BAKU, Azerbaijan — This Caucasian republic has detained a Russian cargo plane carrying six MiG fighters that may have been destined for Yugoslavia, news reports said Tuesday.

The Antonov-124 cargo plane arrived in Azerbaijan's capital last Thursday for refueling, according to the Turan news agency.

But customs agents prevented the plane from leaving after finding the fighters and other military equipment, along with 30 pilots and technicians, the report said. (AP)

Squatters Occupy Land in Venezuela

CARACAS — About 15,000 families have seized 5,000 acres (2,000 hectares) of vacant land in one of Venezuela's largest squatter invasions, the government said Monday.

A nationwide wave of invasions began after Hugo Chavez, leader of a failed 1992 coup attempt and a champion of the rights of the poor, was sworn in as the Venezuelan president on Feb. 2.

Mr. Chavez has refused to call in the National Guard to evict the squatters as demanded by state governors and businessmen. (AP)

Mexico Eliminates The 3-Hour Lunch

MEXICO CITY — The Mexican government is officially abolishing the three-hour lunch. Beginning April 1, government employees will have only a one-hour lunch break.

"What we are doing is modernizing, becoming more efficient," said Marcos Provencio, spokesman for the Treasury Department. (WFP)



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EUROPE

Pressure on Schroeder For Sweeping Changes

Business Chiefs Demand Economic Reforms

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — A delegation of leading executives marched into Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's office early this month to deliver a message that underscores just how rapidly Germany, with the world's third-largest economy, is becoming the sick man of Europe.

The executives bluntly informed Mr. Schröder that business confidence had plummeted to new lows in the five months since he came to power. Export orders were shrinking as markets in Asia, Russia and Latin America slid deeper into recession. Contraction of the German economy promised further layoffs at a time when 4.5 million people, 11 percent of the labor force, were already out of work.

Then Henning Schulte-Noelle, the chief executive of the Allianz insurance group, joined the new German leader by announcing that his company might soon be driven from Germany by excessive taxes and labor costs. His warning was backed by 20 other business leaders, including those of such companies as Siemens and Lufthansa, who declared that their companies could not remain in Germany and survive the competitive pressures of globalization.

The confrontation led Mr. Schröder to set in motion a series of decisions that culminated in the resignation March 11 of his left-leaning finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine. But having banished his arch-rival and promised more pro-business policies from his ruling coalition of Social Democrats and environmentalist Greens, Mr. Schröder is still facing what some economists fear could become a steep slide into recession for Germany and the entire continent.

Thomas Mayer, the managing director of Frankfurt for the investment bank Goldman, Sachs & Co., said: "This is really the moment of truth. Globalization has brought one shock after another. Yet Germany has refused to adapt."

"A new generation of business leaders in Germany is demanding nothing short of a revolution," Mr. Mayer added, "and the government will have to respond or companies will flee and the economy will gradually sink."

The economic challenge has compounded mounting social and political tensions in this nation of 80 million. With frustrations rising as prosperity ebbs — the economy contracted by 1.6 percent in the fourth quarter — the government's attempts to make it easier for Germany's 7.3 million foreign residents

to become citizens has inflamed controversy over whether Germany should embrace multiculturalism or maintain its traditional Teutonic identity.

This new era of limits has also strained relations with the European Union. Germany's demands to curtail payments that subsidize French and Spanish farmers are likely to provoke a major showdown at the summit of the 15 EU leaders that opens Wednesday in Berlin.

During his election campaign, Mr. Schröder enthralled voters by promising to create new jobs while preserving the generous social welfare network. Now he is confronting the grim reality that he cannot deliver on both promises.

The German malaise is rooted in a welfare state that has become so elaborate and expensive that enterprises say they can no longer afford to hire new workers. Average wage costs are now running close to \$30 an hour, far outstripping those in the United States. As a result, the country has lost nearly 1 million jobs since 1995 as Siemens, DaimlerChrysler and Volkswagen shifted more of their operations abroad.

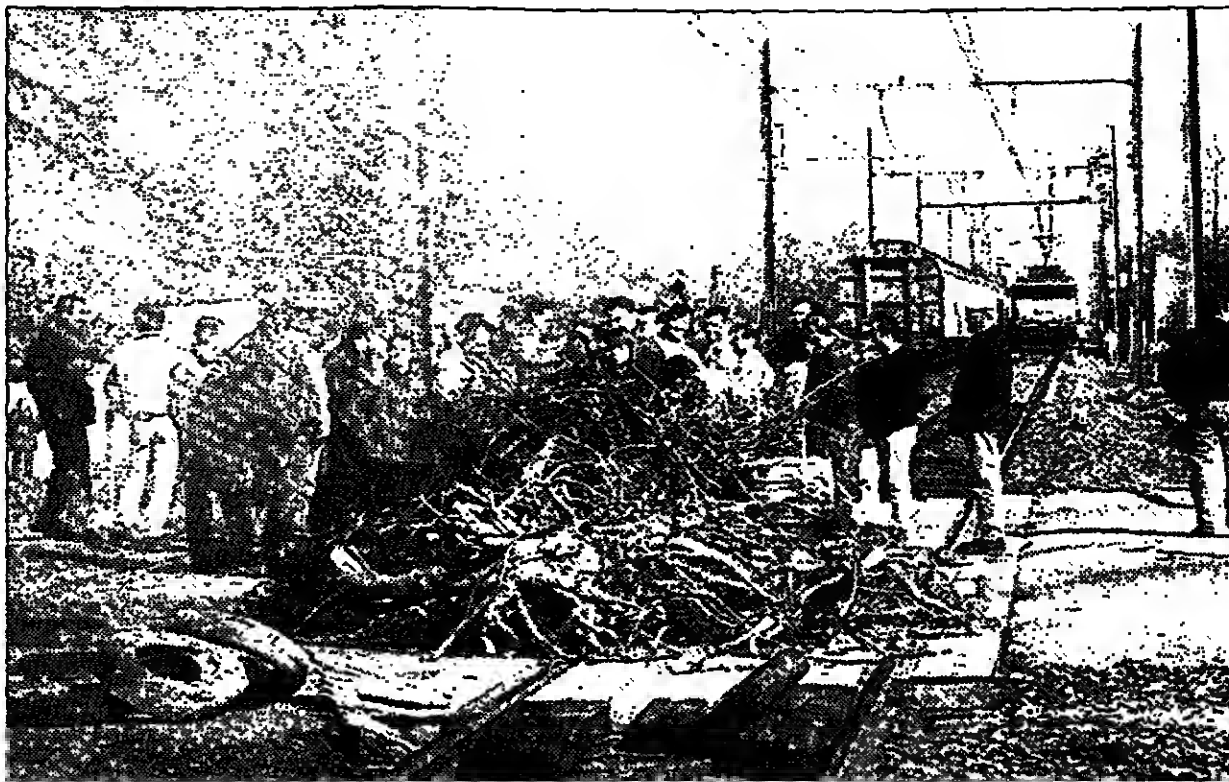
The steady erosion of jobs has only multiplied the burdens on the welfare state: Tax revenue drops as joblessness spreads, yet tax rates must be raised to support the increasing cost of unemployment benefits. The drain on the treasury has become so great that economists estimate the cost of unemployment payments to exceed more than \$100 billion a year.

Many problems can be traced to the lopsided economic boom triggered when 16 million East Germans were absorbed into the Federal Republic and allowed to trade in their worthless currency on a one-to-one basis for Deutsche marks.

As a Social Democrat whose core constituencies still believe in a strong statist economy, Mr. Schröder is facing an almost impossible task in trying to persuade them to cut wage demands and benefits to restore Germany's competitiveness.

Mr. Schröder planned to revive the economy by cutting taxes and raising family allowances to stimulate consumer demand. He hoped to compensate for the loss in revenue by closing tax loopholes. But that only triggered a revolt by businesses, which claimed the tax reform would cost them \$20 billion.

Kurt Biedenkopf, the governor of the state of Saxony, said: "Now we will find out if we still have enough courage to reduce our dependence on the state and take advantage of the freedom and the opportunities offered by this global economic challenge."



STRAW VOTE — French riot police officers being blasted with straw blown from agricultural machines near Lille on Tuesday as farmers, protesting European agricultural policies, staged nationwide demonstrations.

Besieged Dumas Takes Leave To Fight Corruption Charges

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — Roland Dumas, France's highest ranking judicial official, bowed to intense pressure Tuesday and vacated the bench to fight a new wave of corruption charges.

Mr. Dumas, head of the Constitutional Court, said that he would take a leave of absence to combat "a campaign of calumnies" and prove his innocence.

The daily Le Monde reported Tuesday that his advisers and fellow judges had urged him to put the "image" and "dignity" of the supreme court of the land ahead of his mounting personal problems.

A former foreign minister under President François Mitterrand, Mr. Dumas, 76, has remained defiantly on the bench since he was placed under formal judicial investigation 18 months ago.

Two French investigating magistrates are examining evidence that while foreign minister a decade ago he took more than \$10 million in gratuities from the then state-owned oil giant Elf Aquitaine SA.

Their broad suspicion is that those alleged payments persuaded Mr. Dumas to back the 1991 sale of six French frigates to Taiwan in 1991, vessels built by another huge French company with close ties to the state, Thomson-CSF.

Mr. Dumas insisted again Tuesday he was innocent of all the charges. But he succumbed to the accumulating weight of new assertions by his former mistress, Christine Deviers-Joncour, who says she was on the Elf payroll as the liaison and money channel between the oil company and Mr. Dumas. She has been the key witness in Mr. Dumas's slow undoing.

Mrs. Deviers-Joncour, 52, created a sensation in November when she published a book about the intermingled public and private dimensions of her four-year affair with the long-married Mr. Dumas. "The Whore of the Republic" has sold more than 100,000 copies, with fresh printings after every interview or deposition she gives.

Among the piquant new assertions she has made to the investigators and to Paris-Match magazine is that Mr. Dumas was eager to purchase — with Elf funds — a state-owned Paris mansion where Mozart was reputed to have



Roland Dumas hopes to return soon to the Constitutional Council.

played, Mr. Dumas is an enthusiastic and learned music lover. Another was a social conversation with a well-known politician in which Mr. Dumas acknowledged with a laugh that he had not paid for another piece of expensive real estate — a \$3 million Paris apartment bought with Elf money that served as Mr. Dumas's secondary residence, complete with butler and the mistress who turned out to have a long memory.

BRIEFLY

Pinochet Awaiting Decision by British

LONDON — In the gilded surroundings of the House of Lords, seven British peers will rise one by one Wednesday to determine the immediate fate of Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean dictator from 1974 until 1985.

The Law Lords will rule whether Mr. Pinochet has immunity as a former head of state from extradition to Spain on charges of murder, torture and abduction of thousands of people during his years of rule, including Spanish citizens.

Speculation among legal circles is that the general, now 83, will not win his case. (AFP)

El Al Assails Dutch On Crash Inquiry

TEL AVIV — Israel's state airline El Al lashed out on Tuesday at a Dutch parliamentary inquiry that accused it of withholding information about the cargo of a jet that crashed into an apartment building near Amsterdam in 1992.

"The management of El Al Israel Airlines deplores an attempt on the part of parliamentary committee members to place unfair blame on El Al," the company said.

El Al denied statements the airline possessed but failed to turn over documents concerning a 20-ton consignment.

The airline said it was still trying to obtain documents on the cargo, suspected by some to have contained toxins. (Reuters)

Weapons Found In Le Pen's Car

BRUSSELS — Belgian authorities seized tear-gas containers, a bulletproof vest, a revolver and a shotgun from the car of the French far-right leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, the police said Tuesday.

Officers found the firearms late Monday after noticing a broken window in a parked Peugeot with French license plates.

The police seized Mr. Le Pen, his driver and a bodyguard, who said the weapons were for the controversial politician's protection.

Mr. Le Pen, a member of the European Parliament, was quickly released. (AP)

Inquiry on EU Corruption Is Extended

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The European Parliament voted Tuesday to prolong and enlarge an investigation of the European Commission on charges of corruption and called on government leaders to elect a new president for the commission as soon as possible.

The vote was an effort to add fresh responsibilities to the European Union summit meeting starting in Berlin on Wednesday. The meeting already has a huge agenda in dealing with reform of the European Union's finances and in handling the rapidly evolving Kosovo crisis between the Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

All 20 members of the commission, the EU's executive body, resigned a week ago in the wake of a highly damaging report by a group of independent experts set up by Parliament to investigate corruption, fraud and nepotism in the executive body.

The report said that while no commissioners had been personally enriched, they were collectively responsible for mismanagement, loss of political control and lack of responsibility.

The Parliament voted Tuesday by an overwhelming majority — 442 in favor and 33 against — to extend the mandate of the committee of independent

experts to embrace "a more wide-ranging review of the commission's culture, practices and procedures."

It said that a report to be completed in September should look into how the commission awards contracts and hires interim or temporary staff members to implement programs — areas where the report last week identified alleged corruption, fraud and cronyism. The Parliament demanded an "ambitious and thoroughgoing" reform of the commission's financial management.

The present commission, headed by Jacques Santer, is remaining in a technical capacity, contributing technical

A large majority of the European Parliament voted to prolong the investigation.

advice to the Berlin summit meeting but not proposing initiatives.

The Parliament made it clear that it wants to get rid of Mr. Santer as soon as possible, along with the French commissioner, Edith Cresson, who gave a devout friend a contract for what the investigating committee said was worthless scientific work.

In a resolution, it called on the EU

leaders to name a replacement for Mr. Santer urgently and to present a "precise and reasonable" calendar for dealing with the appointment of a new commission.

An interim executive could be in place in time for parliamentary confirmation hearings in May if EU leaders act quickly.

But forming a commission is a delicate balancing act. Some of the members of the present commission could come back in an interim capacity, particularly those with highly technical portfolios like Sir Leo Brittan, who is in charge of increasingly complex and contentious U.S. trade negotiations.

Governments alone are responsible for naming a president and individual members of the commission.

But the Parliament has the right to veto the president and reject the entire commission, but not individual members, at a confirmation hearing.

Members of Parliament are demanding separate confirmations for an interim commission now and for a permanent commission later after the election of a new assembly in June.

Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany told Parliament on Monday that his government, which holds the EU presidency, would push hard for the nomination of a commission president at the Berlin meeting.

Patrick Heron Dies; Painter and Critic

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Patrick Heron, 79, prominent in Britain since the 1940s as an abstract painter and as a critic and advocate in the international art world, died Saturday in Cornwall, England.

Sir Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery in London, said that Mr. Heron was one of the most influential figures in postwar British art.

In the 1960s, Mr. Heron wrote, "It is obvious that color is the only direction in which painting can travel." Working with color that was saturated and voluptuous, he aimed at a boiling energy that would captivate the observer.

He believed that the investigation of color — color in itself, color as form, color as the maker and definer of space — was "the only activity still open to a painter that was not in some way a retreat into the past."

In mid-century, some of Mr. Heron's paintings were tall and thin in format and built up with narrow horizontal, interrelated bars of pure color. Nothing like them had been done in England, and they were widely received with perplexity.

Later, near-circles and near-squares, each in a strong tonal contrast to the others, were intended to look as if they were moving back, forth and sideways in relation to one another. These were among the more sumptuous British abstract paintings beginning in the mid-1960s.

As an art critic in the immediate postwar years, Mr. Heron spoke out for Matisse, Picasso, Leger, Bonnard and Braque as masters who were insufficiently known in Britain.

Jean Guilton, 98; Catholic Philosopher

PARIS (AP) — Jean Guilton, 98, a leading Catholic philosopher and academic who was the only layman authorized to take part in the Second Vatican Council in 1962, died Sunday. Mr. Guilton, the oldest member of the Académie Française to which he was elected in 1961, was the author of about 30 works, mostly focusing on the relationship between Catholicism and modern thought.

He also was a painter, journalist and novelist.

"More than a philosopher, Jean Guilton was a master," President Jacques Chirac of

France said in a tribute, calling him "a dear and precious friend."

Mr. Guilton was close to a number of French presidents, most notably Mr. Chirac's predecessor, François Mitterrand. He also met frequently with Pope Paul VI whom he considered a personal friend.

Jack Tarver, 82, who used his influence as publisher of The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution in the 1960s and early '70s to protect Ralph McGill, the Constitution's Pulitzer Prize-winning editor, from complaints about his support for the civil rights

movement, died of a heart attack Sunday in Atlanta.

Naguib Badry, 73, a former head of the state-run Middle East News Agency in Egypt, died Sunday in Cairo.

Bob Cato, 75, a groundbreaking graphic designer who helped turn the record album cover into an important form of contemporary art, died of complications from Alzheimer's disease Friday in New York.

Jean Pierre Bloch, 93, a French Resistance figure, high-ranking member of

Charles de Gaulle's Free French movement during World War II and spokesman for human rights causes, died March 17 in Paris.

John Marden, 80, one of the last "japans" British entrepreneurs, whose interests ranged from retailing and real estate to aviation, died March 18 on Hong Kong Island.

Ray Forrest, 83, all but forgotten as the man who became a hero to hundreds in 1939 as the first television personality in the United States, died March 11 in New Jersey.

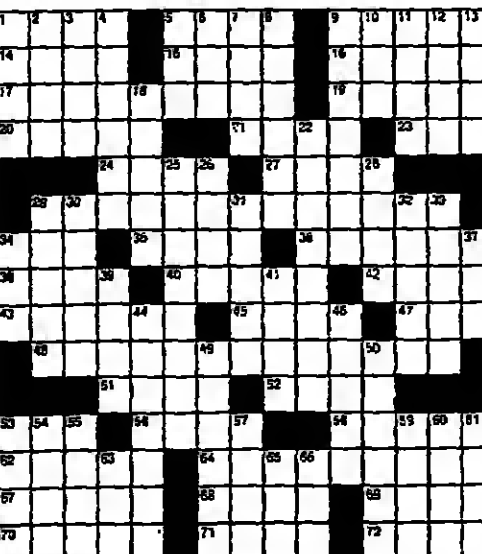
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 London Fog, 9-11
- 3 Multigenerational story
- 9 Betray, in a way
- 14 Up to the task
- 15 Zippo
- 16 Play hard to get
- 17 Sage lands?
- 19 Torments
- 20 Barfly's root, perhaps
- 21 ... blackbirds, asked in —
- 23 Professional suffix
- 24 Do a post-laundry job
- 27 Post — St. Vincent Military
- 29 Joe's lands?
- 34 — da mots (gun)
- 35 Feds
- 36 Looked with desire
- 38 Makes a scene?
- 40 Largest Cornhusker city
- 42 Have on
- 43 Hotel Bible
- 45 Penner people
- 47 One of the "Little Women"
- 48 Dieters' lands?

DOWN

- 1 Last name in cruelty
- 2 Star worship
- 3 Stand by
- 4 Consider
- 5 Once again
- 6 Mr. Rhodes of Rhodes scholarships
- 7 Better
- 8 Bitters
- 9 Hate the thought of
- 10 Tailor's joints
- 11 Bander
- 12 Like some humor
- 13 Uses a Singer
- 14 Crossed fingers symbolizes it
- 15 Somewhat
- 16 Like rye, usually
- 17 Kicked around
- 18 Full-price payers
- 19 Sailor's str
- 20 Gallop
- 21 Forget about
- 22 Dangerous charger
- 23 Go sailing
- 24 Gillette product
- 25 Brit's interjection
- 26 Emmy winner Arthur
- 27 Free
- 28 — Speedwagon



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INTERNATIONAL

West's Strategy: Halt Kosovo War With Neither Side Victorious

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The United States and its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization tried mightily to prevent the return of war to Kosovo. Now that they appear to have failed in that goal, they are hoping to halt the fighting quickly, with no one emerging a winner.

Stopping the conflict with air strikes is not an easy policy to carry off.

The Clinton administration and NATO are consciously risking the very regional escalation they so long sought to avoid. They are doing so, President Bill Clinton suggested Monday, because the alternatives look even worse.

One unappealing aspect of nearly any alternative is the humiliation of NATO and of the United States, NATO's creator and main component.

President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia has crossed, in turn, three lines that the Clinton administration persuaded NATO to draw up, with military reprisals the price for violation.

Forbidden to reinforce his troops in Kosovo, Mr. Milosevic sent about 40,000 to the province and along its border.

Ordered to sign a peace pact, he spurned it.

And warned against a new offensive aimed at Kosovo's secessionist Albanian majority, Mr. Milosevic began exactly that over the weekend.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Inaction "could involve a major cost in credibility, particularly at this time as we approach the NATO summit in celebration of its 50th anniversary," a European diplomat said.

The White House national security adviser, Samuel Berger, speaking Sunday, listed one of the principal purposes of bombing as "to demonstrate that NATO is serious."

President Clinton himself, on Friday, put the largest emphasis on the humanitarian disaster that he said would unfold without NATO's intervention, citing the "sounds of sniper fire aimed at children."

But as one of his foreign policy advisers remarked, "there are massive bloodbaths all over the world and we're not intervening in them."

The difference, the adviser said, is that "this one's in the heart of Europe."

"I'd argue," he added, "that the alliance itself is at risk because if it's unable to address a major threat within Europe, it really loses its reason for being."

The reason a Kosovo war is such a threat is that any conceivable outcome involves a risk of escalation.

If President Milosevic crushes ethnic Albanian resistance in Serbia's rebellious Kosovo Province, the Clinton administration and NATO fear that the flood of guns and refugees across Kosovo's borders will ignite ethnic Albanian populations in neighboring Macedonia; in Montenegro, which with Serbia forms the Yugoslav Federation, and perhaps in Albania itself.

That in turn might draw in mutually hostile neighbors like Turkey and Greece.

If Kosovo wins its independence by force, NATO fears those same populations might rise up to press for a single pan-Albanian state. And if the fighting goes on without a winner, Mr. Clinton said Friday, the conflict has "no natural boundaries."

As they prepare to begin an air campaign, the Clinton administration and NATO therefore hope for a calibration of violence that is seldom achieved in war.

Bluntly put, they want to kill enough Serbs and destroy enough of their war machine to prevent the defeat of a much less powerful rebel force, but not so many that the rebels will be emboldened to press for victory themselves.

After a suitable interval, they plan to reintroduce their peace plan.

It is a tall order for NATO's commanders, the warmaking equivalent of the "Goldilocks economy" — not too hot and not too cold.

Even if bombs and missiles could bring such a result, several officials interviewed said there is not much ground for optimism that a democracy — still less 19 of them operating on NATO rules

of unanimous consent — can manipulate them so precisely.

For the first time this weekend, senior officials in Washington and Europe began to acknowledge they may accidentally set the stage for an independent Kosovo state, something they have long opposed.

"We're not going to be in a situation that can be perfectly choreographed," a British official said.

Mr. Berger, in some of his least-noted comments Sunday, seemed to threaten Mr. Milosevic with that very outcome, a scenario that Washington continues to regard as dangerous.

"If he seeks a military victory in Kosovo, in my judgment he will lose Kosovo," Mr. Berger said.

The Clinton administration tried last October to demand Serbian forces in Kosovo. When the rebels continued their guerrilla war and Mr. Milosevic ordered overwhelming retaliation, the administration decided on a bolder gambit — forcing a political settlement on both sides in the conflict.

Anwar Case
In Malaysia
Winds Up
In DisarrayBy Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — The trial of Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's ousted deputy prime minister, abruptly ended Tuesday with defense lawyers refusing to make closing arguments and the judge declaring them in contempt of court.

The high-profile case, which rocked the political establishment and brought thousands of demonstrators into the streets a few months ago, ended with an unusual standoff between the judge and defense team.

After a sharp exchange of words with the defense lawyers, Judge Augustine Paul declared the trial over, said he would deliver his verdict on April 6 and told Mr. Anwar that he could provide written submissions if he wanted to.

If convicted, Mr. Anwar faces 14 years in jail or a 20,000 ringgit (\$5,260) fine — or both — on each of four charges filed against him.

He is accused of ordering police officers to cover up allegations of sexual indiscretion.

Both the defense and prosecution had been scheduled to deliver their closing arguments on Tuesday, but an application by the defense to remove the judge caused the proceedings to halt.

Mr. Anwar submitted the application last week, saying that he felt he could not receive a fair trial from the judge, who has presided over the case since it began in November.

"I have grave apprehension that the learned judge might not bring an impartial and unprejudiced mind with respect to the issues and matters before him," Mr. Anwar wrote in the document.

Confusion Tuesday over the proper submission procedures for the application led to a deadlock.

The judge called the defense team "defiant" for refusing to make closing arguments before the application was heard.

"If the defense wishes out to submit, it is entirely up to them," the judge said about the closing arguments.

"This places an extreme burden on the court to ensure that justice is done for the accused. To me, this amounts to interference of justice and it is contempt of court by all members of the defense team."

The unusual end to the politically charged trial came two days after the country's opposition leaders criticized handling of the case.

"It is clearly an unfair trial," said Lim Kit Siang, leader of the opposition in Parliament and head of the Democratic Action Party. "I am saying this although it might land me in contempt of court."

Mr. Anwar says he is the victim of a political conspiracy. Before he was dismissed by Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad last September, he was the second most powerful politician in the country.

The judge refused to accept Mr. Anwar's claims of a political conspiracy as a defense, and barred 10 defense witnesses from giving testimony.

Whatever the outcome of the trial, Mr. Anwar faces additional charges of sodomy and other alleged crimes that have yet to be disclosed by the attorney general.

Pope Is Said
To Plan Visit
To JerusalemBy Deborah Sontag
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Israel's tourism minister has announced that Pope John Paul II intends to visit Jerusalem in March 2000 to celebrate the millennium. It would be the first papal trip to the Holy Land since Paul VI visited Jerusalem in 1964.

But the Vatican spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, said Monday that the trip "for now has not been set," adding that neither the date nor the itinerary had been worked out. The Associated Press reported.

The tourism minister, Moshe Katsav, said: "The Pope's office will publish statements at a time and place they choose. The Pope has the intention and desire to visit."

A senior Vatican official, Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, stood by Mr. Katsav's side but did not confirm the announcement directly. "The year 2000 is a celebration of Christ and his life in this land," the cardinal said. "Therefore it is only natural that the Pope would come here."

Channel One television of Israel, which is state-owned, reported that the Pope was also expected to visit Bethlehem and Nazareth in the Palestinian territories in a three-day visit to the area from March 24 to 26 next year.

The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, has invited the Pope to visit Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus.

Although the Pope long ago indicated a desire to include Jerusalem in the Roman Catholic Church's jubilee celebration of the millennium, political tensions between the Israelis and the Palestinians — particularly the dispute over the fate of Jerusalem — have stalled plans for a trip.

PARAGUAY:
Vice President Slain

Continued from Page 1

But Mr. Cubas appealed to his detractors not to make the vice president's death a political issue.

"I am not considering resigning from office," Mr. Cubas said at a news conference after his nationwide address. Referring to his four-year term that began last August, he added, "I will finish out my mandate."

The trade union leader Alan Flores said he would call a general strike until Mr. Cubas stepped down.

The Colorado has ruled Paraguay for five decades, under the dictatorship of General Alfredo Stroessner until he was ousted by a coup in 1989 and since then by two elected Colorado presidents, Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Mr. Cubas.

Mr. Oviedo attempted to overthrow Mr. Wasmosy in 1996. He then beat Mr. Argana in party primaries last year and ran for president — with much popular support — until Mr. Wasmosy threw him in jail and he was sentenced to 10 years for the coup attempt.

Mr. Cubas, his running-mate, stepped in and wooed the presidency, and under party rules Mr. Argana automatically became his deputy.

Since then the struggle for control of the party has been bitter. Last week followers of Mr. Cubas and Mr. Oviedo seized the party headquarters by force after Mr. Argana's followers tried to vote themselves back into top party posts.

Mr. Wasmosy, who handed power to Mr. Cubas after the election last year, read a statement to reporters blaming Mr. Cubas for the killing.

"The person responsible for the period of chaos, violence and bloodshed that Paraguay is undergoing is the head of the executive branch," said Mr. Wasmosy, accused by Mr. Cubas last month of conspiring with Mr. Argana to oust him from office.

Juan Carlos Galaverna, one of the slain official's chief aides, demanded the "immediate resignation" of Mr. Cubas and the arrest of Oviedo.

Stores shuttered their doors, schools and colleges canceled classes and a union announced a work stoppage to protest the killing. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

ACTION:
Clinton Prepares U.S.

Continued from Page 1

"It will be interpreted by Mr. Milosevic as a license to continue to kill. There will be more massacres, more refugees, more victims."

A NATO attack, he said, was "the best of a lot of bad alternatives" but was "morally right and in the vital interests of the United States."

The president's comments came just hours after he met at the White House with a group of senators to seek their support. Many of them, including notable critics of his Kosovo policy, emerged vowing to support him and the U.S. military forces poised to strike.

A proposed Senate resolution that would call for a cut-off of funding for a Kosovo operation was being reworked to make clear such support.

The White House press secretary, Joe Lockhart, said that "diplomacy's been exhausted."

"NATO is now united and prepared to carry out its warning," Mr. Clinton said. "If President Milosevic is not willing to make peace, we are willing to limit his ability to make war on the Kosovars."

Similarly, in London, Prime Minister Tony Blair told Parliament that Serbian atrocities against the Kosovars, as well as the threat to the credibility of NATO, left the alliance no alternative but to strike. Italy and France also reaffirmed their commitments to the NATO attack.

In the face of international demands, and in violation of earlier agreements, Mr. Milosevic has sent Serbian forces to attack ethnic Albanian rebels and burn down villages in Kosovo. International observers have documented mass executions and atrocities by Serbian troops. More than 40,000 Serbian security forces are deployed in and near Kosovo.

"We must act to save thousands of innocent men, women and children," Mr. Blair said, and "to save the stability of the Balkan region, where we know chaos can engulf the whole of the European Union."

"We have no alternative, therefore, to act, and act we will."

Mr. Holbrooke, probably the Western diplomat who knows Mr. Milosevic best, left the meeting in Belgrade appearing downcast.

He told a CNN interviewer that the situation was, "I would say, the bleakest since we began this effort almost four years ago."

Mr. Holbrooke, who in 1995 helped broker the Dayton peace agreement for Bosnia, was asked if Mr. Milosevic understood the stakes in his defiance of Western demands. "He said he did, we are satisfied he does," Mr. Holbrooke said.

Mr. Milosevic, he added, would not discuss with him "in a serious manner" the demands either for a cease-fire or for a NATO-led peacekeeping force to enter Kosovo.

Most speakers at an exceptional session of the Yugoslav Parliament spoke in defiance of NATO's will, saying they would never allow foreign troops on their soil.

Mr. Clinton spoke on a day of rapid developments, amid rising signs that a first round of NATO cruise missile attacks could come soon, and with no further warning.

The president did two things Tuesday that his congressional critics had repeatedly requested. He sought to explain to the public more clearly the stakes of, and rationale for, action in Kosovo; and he specifically requested congressional backing for such action.

Mr. Clinton said that the lives of Kosovar Albanians were at risk, NATO credibility was threatened, and a conflict with "no natural boundaries" risked spreading to Greece and Turkey.

The United States and its NATO allies, Mr. Clinton said, had done everything possible to fashion a diplomatic solution to the conflict pitting Serbian forces against the Kosovar Albanians.

PRIMAKOV: Russian Turns for Home

Continued from Page 1

Primakov said in Ireland, adding: "There is still scope for political dialogue."

"Air strikes will change the entire nature of the global order that has taken shape since the Second World War," he said.

"An attack without UN Security Council blessing is unacceptable, especially against a country that does not pose a threat to other countries. The use of force in Kosovo would fly in the face of reason and destabilize the entire region."

Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris



Richard Holbrooke, center, in Belgrade on Tuesday, after a meeting with President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia. Mr. Holbrooke declared their talks a failure and left later for NATO headquarters in Brussels.

KOSOVO: Air Attacks Set Risky Precedent

Continued from Page 1

hibiting a decision to use military force against the Serbs.

For months, as Mr. Milosevic ignored threats that NATO would employ force to stop the crackdown in Kosovo, the U.S. encountered stubborn resistance from some European countries who insisted the alliance needed explicit UN authority before it could launch bombing raids against a sovereign nation.

The U.S. argued that this requirement would enable Russia and China — two of the five permanent Security Council members — to exercise a permanent veto over future NATO military operations.

The concern about a UN mandate, shared by varying degrees by Britain, France, Italy and Germany, was overcome only when the allies became convinced that the pressing dangers of a humanitarian disaster involving 250,000 homeless Kosovars outweighed the strictures of international law.

Over the last two days, allied leaders gave formal approval for military action if the last-ditch diplomatic mission by the U.S. envoy to the Balkans, Richard Holbrooke, should fail.

NATO officials said the principal reasons cited by government chiefs were the need to avert a catastrophe involving the Kosovar refugees and to salvage NATO's credibility after so many rapid warnings.

Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain declared in the House of Commons: "To walk away now would destroy NATO's credibility. Britain stands ready with our NATO allies to take military action."

Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine of France said he was satisfied that every possible avenue of finding a peaceful resolution had been exhausted. Given the intransigence shown by Mr. Milosevic after so many appeals, he indicated that France supported the view that there was no available alternative to air strikes against Yugoslavia.

The apprehensions within Italy's left-leaning government about the wisdom

of air strikes were recently compounded by popular outrage when a U.S. military court exonerated an American airman whose plane sliced a ski cable during a training flight in northern Italy last year, killing 20 people.

But Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini told the Italian Senate on Tuesday that Rome now believed NATO had no other choice but to proceed with offensive air operations. He said the strikes are designed "to weaken Serbia's military forces and thus to stop them if possible from deploying militarily in Kosovo."

Mr. Dini said if Mr. Milosevic spurned further negotiations after a pause, air strikes would continue "to wipe out that military capability and also perhaps nonmilitary infrastructure as well." But he insisted there were no NATO plans to intervene with ground troops, unless the Serbs accepted their presence as part of a peacekeeping contingent.

The reluctance to follow up air strikes with a ground intervention force disturbs some military specialists.

General Michael Rose of Britain, who led the ill-fated UN military force in Bosnia, said, "If you carry out any act of war, you have to be prepared to go the whole distance."

"But I doubt very much if the countries of the West would want to launch themselves on a third Balkan war," he added.

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More Airlines Halt
Flights to Belgrade

Agence France-Presse

BELGRADE — Air France, Swissair and Lufthansa canceled scheduled flights to Belgrade on Tuesday, airport officials reported.

They gave no indication whether future flights would be subject to cancellation.

In Paris, an Air France spokesman said the company had canceled flights through Wednesday evening and would examine the situation further at that time.

A Swissair spokesman in Zurich said its daily flight had been canceled until "further notice."

On Sunday, British Airways announced it was canceling flights to Belgrade because of the Kosovo crisis.

NATO countries have threatened to carry out air strikes against Serbian military targets in a campaign to compel Belgrade to accept a peace agreement with the ethnic Albanians.

The Kosovars have been fighting for more than a year to win an independent homeland.

PRISTINA:
Kosovo Capital Tense

Continued from Page 1

voices of opposition.

On Monday, the publisher of the major Albanian-language newspaper in Kosovo, Koha Ditore, said that he expected the paper to be closed within 24 hours after a Pristina court ordered it to pay a fine for allegedly inciting ethnic hatred.

For many refugees, Pristina has become the destination of a tortured odyssey. Last week, Sevdie Krasniqi, 35, left her village of Zhitovda, 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of here, when the village came under shelling from Yugoslav forces clearing a large area in the foothills of the Cicovac Mountains.

For two days, she found shelter for herself, her husband, and their eight children at a mosque in nearby Resnik, but then that village came under heavy shelling.

She then crossed the mountains on an open trailer pulled by a tractor and reached her mother-in-law's house in the village of Stutica, in the Drenica area west of Pristina.

But that village, too, came under attack and she fled again, this time with her mother-in-law, her sister-in-law and her three children. Her husband, fearing he would be arrested, fled to the snow-covered mountains with other local men.

Two days ago, the women and children made it to Glogovac, a small town on the edge of the fighting, where 20,000 refugees have arrived in recent days.

From there, the family took a bus to Pristina. All 14 now live in two cramped rooms, where they dare not peek out the window because they do not have a permit to live in the city.

"I'm still afraid," said Mrs. Krasniqi. "I'm terrified."

The government offensive to the countryside continued Tuesday, although it appeared to have lost some momentum as security forces have few populated villages left to target.

The village of Gornja Kina, five miles north of the deserted city of Srbica, in the Drenica region west of Pristina, was burning Tuesday. The fighting has paralyzed some refugees who were surrounded by government forces and did not know where to go, witnesses said.

On Sunday in Srbica, a town of 20,000 that troops have cleared of most of its population, a woman with her daughter and grandchild huddled behind a kiosk on an empty street.

When reporters approached them, they began to cry and shudder — terrified by the strange faces. "Please, we don't know anything," said the younger woman, looking around anxiously.

SHIPS: Japanese Chase 2 Mystery Vessels

Continued from Page 1

Japan is an essential partner in a consortium that is providing energy to North Korea in exchange for that country's freezing its nuclear program, and Japan could back out of the consortium — and thus create major problems for the United States and South Korea, the other member major partners — if it felt that it had been threatened by North Korea.

For now, the whole episode seemed mysterious.

Japan's Maritime Safety Agency said that it spotted one of the ships Tuesday morning about 45 kilometers (28 miles) east of the Noto Peninsula in central Japan on the side facing the Korean Peninsula.

Then, officials said, the Maritime Safety Agency sent a destroyer to track the ship, and the second mysterious vessel was found. The authorities did not explain why they felt compelled to send destroyers to investigate or what they found mysterious about the two ships.

The two were about 30 meters (100 feet) long and bore the names of real Japanese fishing boats. Transport Minister Hiro Kawasaki said that one of the ships was using the name of a vessel that was sailing elsewhere and that the second used the name of a vessel that is no longer in operation.

Japanese military officials sent three destroyers and a plane to track the two ships, assisting the Maritime Safety Agency, whose patrol boats fired more than 1,200 rounds of warning shots from machine guns on two occasions Tuesday night.

This was the first time Japan had fired warning shots at sea since 1953, when a Japanese patrol boat fired off the bow of a Soviet spy ship near the northern island of Hokkaido.

The warning shots were intended to

force the two vessels to stop so that they could be boarded. But instead, the two vessels continued at high speed, a pace that suggested that they had been fitted for military purposes rather than for fishing. Flown taken by Japanese aircraft also showed no sign of fishing equipment and no people on deck.

"We started firing shots as the ships ignored orders to stop, and we are continuing fire," Kazumasa Sugihara, a senior Maritime Safety Agency official, said at a news conference, according to Agence France-Presse.

"It is unthinkable that fishing boats can move at such speed, and we believe they have been modified," he added.

North Korea is periodically accused of infiltrating South Korean waters.

In December, for example, South Korean naval vessels sank a North Korean semi-submersible boat that Seoul said was being used to drop off or pick up commandos.

Similar charges have been made, more rarely, about North Korean vessels sneaking into Japanese waters.

Japanese intelligence officials say that North Korean vessels have occasionally picked up kidnapped Japanese nationals and smuggled them back to North Korea.

Japanese officials also say that they monitor hundreds of radio transmissions each week that they believe are instructions from North Korea to agents in Japan, but that they cannot break the codes.

North Korea denies that it infiltrates the waters of other countries, but it has not commented on the latest incident.

In addition to North Korean vessels, there are many other smuggling vessels — particularly from China — that might pretend to be Japanese fishing boats while dropping off would-be migrant workers, narcotics, guns or other cargoes.

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Oil Prices Are Rising

Oil prices are heading up, as Saudi Arabia and other producers seek to restrain the supply. Those higher prices will dampen the economic boom in the United States but will not cause severe problems for it. The rise should serve as a reminder to Americans that energy conservation, largely forgotten as oil prices have fallen to their lowest level in years, remains an important goal.

The oil-producing countries, meeting in Vienna, were expected on Tuesday to agree to reductions in production totaling about 2 million barrels per day. If the cuts are made, that would be more than enough to assure that oil prices will rise.

The increases have already begun. The benchmark price of west Texas intermediate crude oil, which fell from above \$25 per barrel at the end of 1996 to under \$11 at the end of last year, has rebounded to above \$15. Demand for oil in Asia is beginning to rise as economies start to recover. American gasoline demand has been rising at a fast clip due both to the boom in America

and to the growing sales of inefficient sport utility vehicles.

There are rumors that Saudi Arabia, which is to make the biggest cuts, has threatened that, if other oil producers do not live up to their promises to cut, it will produce oil as fast as it can to disrupt their markets. Such a move would send oil prices plunging, so the threat may be enough to restrain production for some time, notwithstanding the fact that some countries have broken previous promises to reduce output. Frederick Leuffer, the oil analyst at Bear Stearns, thinks that the price of crude oil could climb back to \$20 by the end of this year.

Such a rise would reduce the economic pain for major oil exporters, among them Russia and Indonesia, but it would slow economic growth in other countries. For Americans, the move means that inflation is likely to rise, albeit not by huge amounts, and that spending on consumer goods is likely to slow from the recent torrid pace.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Ulster Peace in Danger

Northern Ireland's peace agreement is facing the most serious crisis of its 11 months of life. David Trimble, the Protestant Unionist who is first minister of Northern Ireland's new assembly, is set to appoint a cabinet of 10 ministers, two of them from the IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin. But he will do so only if the IRA starts to turn over its buried weapons and explosives. Such disarmament, while not required now under the peace agreement, is clearly reasonable. The IRA's refusal to begin even token disarmament could destroy the peace.

The IRA would be more likely to compromise if weapons alone were the issue. But more important to IRA hardliners are the IRA fighters who preceded them, whose memory, they feel, would be dishonored by disarmament. Symbolism, not military need, is driving the issue.

The landscape of modern civil war is strewn with agreements wrecked over disarmament. A 1994 peace treaty for Angola required the rebel leader Jonas Savimbi's organization to turn in its guns. It did not, and last year used them to restart the war. After Cambodia's civil war ended in 1991, the United Nations failed to disarm Hun Sen's forces. He then threatened his way back into power after losing an election.

The difference in Northern Ireland is that disarmament, or decommuniting, should matter little. Urban terrorism requires only bombs easily built after a trip to a hardware and gardening store. Unlike Mr. Savimbi and Mr. Hun Sen, who wanted power, not peace,

Sinn Féin's leaders have staked their lives on peace. Some in the IRA may desire more violence, but it is credible that the organization has genuinely changed. So why is the IRA so determined to keep all its weapons? In part because disarmament is a symbol of trust, which many Catholics in Northern Ireland do not feel. Many Catholics do not yet feel safe.

Sinn Féin leaders argue that Mr. Trimble is making demands not required by the peace agreement, while changes wanted by Catholics, such as police reform, are still far off. This is correct, but misses the point that Protestants also lack trust. Many do not believe the IRA has really changed. In part because of the IRA's refusal to disarm, the peace agreement is in serious danger of rejection by Protestants in the assembly. Allowing Sinn Féin ministers into the cabinet before the IRA turns over a single gun is seen by Protestant groups as surrender.

London and, notably, Dublin have sided with Mr. Trimble on this issue. They are asking the IRA to make at least a symbolic start toward disarmament. The IRA — and Protestant paramilitaries, which are also declining to disarm — have so far refused.

"The dead control the thinking of the living," says Paul Arthur, a professor of politics at the University of Ulster. Each side constantly asks: How much can we give up before we betray our dead? They need to be asking: How much can we hold back before we betray the living?

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Angry Albright Is Right

The Republican budget resolutions that the House and Senate are scheduled to take up this week were savaged on Monday with good cause by an unlikely figure, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. She called the unrealistic spending levels that they imply for foreign operations "outrageous and unacceptable." She said they would "take a meat ax to American leadership," "require us to underfund virtually every major program we have" and constitute "a clear and present danger to American safety, prosperity and values." She added: "No member of the House or Senate should vote for them without understanding that, or without accepting responsibility for the consequences. The resolutions should be amended or defeated; they should not be approved."

The complaint illustrates the phobia of the resolutions. To finance a showy tax cut while at the same time setting aside funds for Social Security and allowing for an increase for defense, the Republicans propose crippling and unsustainable cuts in spending for the rest of government, mainly domestic programs but including the functions overseen by the Department of State. Not even Republicans think that the levels in the resolutions can be adhered to. But for now, at least, they are busy making a statement. The secretary made one back.

The Senate resolution implies a cut in the budget for international affairs of 15 percent below the president's request; the House proposal suggests 21

percent. Both would move spending below the level for the current year and keep it there for the foreseeable future, creating a "foreign policy straitjacket," Mrs. Albright said.

She noted that "during the past week the administration has been pummeled by some in Congress, not for asking for too much but rather for too little, especially for embassy security." She continued: "I say to my good friends, where would you have us cut: the war against drugs, the battle against terror, our efforts to control the threats posed by 'loose nukes' and the prospect of nuclear expertise being put up for sale to the highest bidder ... ?"

A tough attack, and justified. This is a hollow, grandstanding budget.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Other Comment

Politically Correct No More

When the Motion Picture Academy approved an honorary Oscar for Elia Kazan, their historic decision hastened the demise of the "politically correct" instinct in America. PC, whatever it was, lies in ruins, defeated by art, not politics. It never was a movement, more like a conditioned reflex, or a college prank. Mr. Kazan shares his triumph with another Greek genius, Aristotle, who propounded an iron rule of artistic criticism: Judge the work, not the author.

—Martin F. Nolan, commenting in *The Boston Globe*.

How to Worry Sensibly About China in Transition

By Thomas L. Friedman

SHANGHAI — Viewed from here, there is something incredibly off-base about the China debate going on in the United States today. The best parallel I can think of is the debate in America about Japan a decade ago.

The debate about Japan was essentially between two schools. The Honda School argued that the Japanese had found the secret to endless economic success, from just-in-time inventory to team manufacturing, and the thing to do was emulate the Japanese model and accommodate them as best one could.

The General Douglas MacArthur School argued that the Japanese might have found the secret of success but they had rigged the game by closing off their markets to others, and the right policy was to beat down their walls and contain their rising economic power.

One school was missing from that Japan debate: the one arguing that Japan's system was deeply flawed, that while Japan had a few cutting-edge global companies, the rest of its economy resembled state-owned Communist factories, and that the Japanese wizardry for making a lot of the same thing well would no longer be an advantage

in the information age, where innovation is happening much faster and everyone wants something different, tailored just for him.

So Japan's economy would slow to a crawl in the 1990s, and the biggest problem America would have with Japan would be managing its weakness.

In other words, the only school missing from the debate on Japan was the one that reflected reality. The same is true now for China.

There are essentially two schools in the China debate. One school says just trade with China and everything will turn out fine, as China naturally prospers. The other argues that China will grow stronger and more authoritarian at the same time, and therefore it must be contained and tamed now by U.S. power, before it's too late.

Time will prove both these schools off the mark. I believe that the key problem the world will face with China in the next decade will be managing its weakness. China may grow richer, and it may grow more authoritarian, but it is

not going to do both at the same time.

In the long run, China cannot get where it wants to go, in terms of higher living standards, without a radical political and economic restructuring. It will not be able to cure the 40 percent of its economy that is bankrupt banks and factories without more rule of law, more global integration and investment, and more democratization.

China cannot get from here to there with its current corruption-laden, one-party system, and moving away from that system is going to involve some wrenching changes and internal strains. (See dictionary for Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia.)

Americans debate about China as though President Jiang Zemin woke up every morning and said, "Hey, where can I threaten America today?" Nonsense. Mr. Jiang wakes up every morning and says to his aides: "What? Our unemployment level is now 101 million? But yesterday you told me it was only 100 million."

That is what he is focused on because that is what can kill him and his party — not American power. Managing China's weakness, and the turmoil it

could spew out when China's current system hits the limits of its adaptability, could turn out to be an all-consuming task for U.S. foreign policy.

It is ironic how perceptions of the old Soviet Union now color U.S.-Chinese relations. U.S. conservatives look at China today and see the 1960s Soviet Union of Sputnik, Khrushchev and a rising Communist power. Chinese intellectuals look at China today and worry about the 1990s Soviet Union of mafiosi and social collapse.

"Forgive me for my directness," Yang Jiemian, an expert at Shanghai's Institute for International Studies, said to me, "but I have seen what happened to the former Soviet Union. The lesson is: If conditions are not prepared, and we change our system too quickly, there will be great social disorder and civil war and the Americans will not come to our rescue."

Let's have a division of labor. While some worry that China is a car about to run them off the road, I will worry that it is a car carrying 1.3 billion people going fast toward a speed bump, with wheels that could come off at any moment.

The New York Times

Kosovo Alternative: Help the Kosovars to Fight Back

By Anna Husarska

NEW YORK — Once the ethnic Albanians said they would sign the Rambouillet agreement on temporary autonomy for Kosovo, leaders of the Western alliance declared almost in unison: Now the pressure is on Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

No, it is not. Now the pressure is on NATO to force Mr. Milosevic to sign the Rambouillet agreement.

This is not only a question of semantics. It is a question of calling a credible threat a credible threat and a dictator a dictator. And this dictator may have reasons not to believe that this threat is credible.

Mr. Milosevic has made clear that he has no intention of agreeing to the military part of the Rambouillet deal, that is, NATO-led international forces assuring the reality of autonomy on the ground.

If the international negotiators do not give in and do not

make concessions to Mr. Milosevic, it would seem that no NATO troops can deploy in a permissive environment unless Mr. Milosevic is forced from office or into changing his mind. It is worth repeating that he understands only the argument of force.

But to use force against him, NATO countries would have to put their soldiers in harm's way, because bombing alone does not remove a dictator, as we keep seeing in Iraq.

Kosovo is a place that the United States is not ready to stick out its neck for, and neither are the West Europeans, certainly not without American troops alongside. The three new East European NATO members might agree to do it, but that would make every other NATO nation look like a sissy.

Meanwhile, most of the 2 million ethnic Albanians in

Kosovo are ready to fight the Milosevic forces and to die if need be in order to gain independence for their homeland. Does it not make sense for the alliance to use this eagerness of the ethnic Albanians to risk their lives for an independent homeland, and thus to present Mr. Milosevic with a credible threat of force, a threat of ethnic Albanian force?

So let the leaks go forth: NATO supports the ethnic Albanian fighters and will spare no effort in bolstering their firepower as well as their human rights record.

This may sound like a bloodthirsty approach, but conventional finger-wagging and the customary "We will not allow" speeches fail to stop carnage on the ground.

If such a scenario is scary, then it is perhaps scary enough to force Mr. Milosevic to sign?

And without further carnage?

During the past few decades the United States has used this "our goal, their blood" approach with the mujahidin in Afghanistan and the contras in Nicaragua.

And there is a recent Balkan precedent. The NATO bombing of Bosnian Serb positions in 1995, which forced Mr. Milosevic to the Dayton negotiating table, was preceded by a crucial ground offensive by Croatian forces against Bosnian Serbs. Power on the ground speaks to Mr. Milosevic.

For NATO to back the Kosovo Liberation Army, the KLA, would have to start behaving like a regular civilized army. It would have to stop the kidnappings and the attacks on civilians (Kosovo Serbs or Albanians who may disagree with the KLA); start respecting the basic laws of war and applying the Geneva conventions.

And if NATO wants to be

perceived as a real ally of those brave ethnic Albanians who are ready to give their lives in this fight, it would have to recognize, at least in principle, that the Kosovos Albanians' goal of independence is a legitimate one, although it may be not reachable at this stage.

Russia, the alliance's ally in the Contact Group, would obviously be very unhappy with all this, but Russians failed in their attempt to talk Mr. Milosevic into signing, and there is no more time to lose.

Last Friday, by welcoming three new members, NATO found itself having a common border with a Yugoslavia ruled by Slobodan Milosevic. That thought should lead to concentrate the alliance's collective mind on standing up to him.

The writer, a fellow at the Media Studies Center in New York, contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

While Negotiators Dither, Thousands Flee in Distress

By Jacky Mamou

PARIS — Slobodan Milosevic has again forced intermediaries to extend the deadline for agreement on autonomy for Kosovo. This adjournment poses more urgently than ever the question of protection of civilian populations.

Civilians have been forgotten in the negotiation process. Their fate is being left exclusively to humanitarian aid organizations.

The plight of Kosovo's civilians worsens by the hour as the fighting between Serbs and the Kosovo Liberation Army escalates. Once again, entire families are being forced to flee their villages.

Mobile clinics operated by Médecins du Monde in four municipalities are assisting thousands of displaced persons, many of them destitute, terrorized and exhausted after trekking for several days without sustenance.

These newly displaced persons join other thousands already in the four towns, which were partly destroyed during Serbian offensives last year.

A study of the four zones by Médecins du Monde found that close to 7,000 homes were destroyed. Yet 30,000 refugees were on hand last month before the current influx.

The health and food situation is extremely precarious. As many as 50 men, women and children can be found sharing a single room. They take turns sleeping and keeping warm.

Some of the new arrivals say they had to leave elderly people or invalids behind in their home

villages. Some families have abandoned their homes for the second or third time.

Most of the displaced children are unable to attend school because the schools are already overcrowded. Many show signs of extreme anxiety.

The uncertainty with which these people are confronted, as they constantly fear a new attack, aggravates the general deterioration of health.

Médecins du Monde is trying as best it can to protect these people. As a humanitarian organization, it cannot interfere in the fighting or prevent the flow of displaced persons. It can only provide health care and food, and let these refugees know that they have not been completely forgotten.

The civilians of Kosovo should not have to pay the price for the slow pace of negotiations and the power struggle between Mr. Milosevic and the international community. This is not a case of a disembodied diplomatic negotiation. The lives of many thousands of people are at stake.

Every day that passes without a political resolution results in more displaced persons and heightens the humanitarian emergency in Kosovo.

Dr. Mamou is president of Médecins du Monde. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Past Bluffing Has Made Things Worse

Past Bluffing Has Made Things Worse

DURING the last year the United States and NATO have repeatedly warned and threatened Slobodan Milosevic. Stop your assaults on the people of Kosovo, he has been told, or NATO will carry out air attacks on Serbian forces.

He treated the threats contemptuously, as bluffs. And that is what they have been so far. The record is an object lesson in how not to conduct policy.

The credibility of the United States has been severely damaged in the world.

The 90 percent of Kosovars who are of ethnic Albanian origin have paid a terrible price in human terms. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes.

Bill Clinton ignored the overwhelming lesson of past dealings with Mr. Milosevic. That is that you must act immediately when he starts killing people, or things will get worse.

In 1991, President George Bush and his secretary of state, James Baker, did nothing when Mr. Milosevic's army shelled Croatian cities. Mr. Milosevic went on to the murderous war in Bosnia, with Mr. Bush and then

Mr. Clinton dithering until, finally, the Dayton peace conference was convened.

Mr. Milosevic began his killing in Kosovo a year ago, when Serbian artillery and tanks pulverized several villages. At that point, limited bombing by the United States and NATO would have stopped him. But there was only empty talk, so he turned the screw further.

By delaying, Mr. Clinton greatly increased the cost of any eventual intervention.

The Clinton administration has said that U.S. ground forces will go into Kosovo only if there is a permissive environment. What is the plan if the environment is one of Serbian political and military resistance?

After the folly of the last year, there is no easy option. But the worst would be to do nothing. That would intensify terror in Kosovo. And it would devastate the credibility of NATO and the United States.

"Hesitation is a license to kill," Mr. Clinton said on Friday. It is better for him to learn that late than never.

—Anthony Lewis, writing in *The New York Times*.

Houses Can Be Built and Paid For

By Millard Fuller and Richard Stearns

AMERICUS, Georgia — Houses lack incentives to improve their homes. They live in constant fear of being forced out by landlords, soldiers or police. In most cases, critical services like water and sanitation are denied.

There are models of partnership among governments, private organizations and individuals to help address the housing issue. A case in point is Maragondon, a community of 31,500 south of Manila. The name means "resounding noise" in Tagalog. Maragondon was the birthplace a century ago of the Filipino revolution against Spain.

In recent decades, the Philippines has seen by rapid, unsustainable urbanization. By the early 1990s an estimated 18 million Filipinos lived in more than 275 squatter slums. Housing is a high priority of President Joseph Estrada's administration. It has sought the aid of businesses and international donors. Half of the country's 73 million people live in poverty.

In Maragondon, squatter homes are in undesirable and often dangerous locations: near the ocean shore, vulnerable to typhoons; at the edge of a quarry, where the air is thick with dust; on other people's land, from which residents are displaced at will.

Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization, is a partner in the effort to help move families from squatter stacks to

solid homes. Since 1976 it has assisted in the construction of 70,000 homes throughout the world, including 2,000 in the Philippines.

Prospective homeowners in Maragondon help build their own houses and those of their neighbors. They will repay the cost of construction with no-interest loans. Their payments will help build homes in the Philippines and elsewhere.

Some of these new homes are being built on 3.27 hectares of land procured by World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization that has been working with Maragondon residents since 1990. Acquisition of the land and rezoning took two years.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn were joining about 8,000 volunteers in the Philippines this week to build 250 houses there. Hundreds more homes will be built over the next 12 months.

Japanese donors will support micro-enterprise efforts to enable families to meet their mortgage payments. Local authorities will provide roads, sanitation services and other facilities.

In Maragondon right now, the "resounding noise" is of rasping circular block and plowing mortar.

Mr. Fuller is president of Habitat for Humanity International. Mr. Stearns is president of World Vision, United States. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Culinary Crisis

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] What is the cause of the "culinary crisis"? It is the evil of the "five o'clock" which leads to unpunctuality at dinner. It is all the fault of the ladies. Instead of taking a cup of tea and a biscuit at 5 p.m., they go in for a regular feed of indigestible delicacies, and the "five o'clock" is prolonged till 7 p.m. Small wonder if they feel little inclination for dinner and put the meal off. And when they do sit down, the idea is to rush through any dishes, because they want to go to the theatre or a party.

1924: Duce's Oration

ROME — Amid thunders of applause, Signor Mussolini, the Fascist Duce and Premier, advanced to deliver his great electoral speech on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the foundation of his movement.

He defined Fascism as standing for a strong State to defend itself from attacks from abroad and from disintegrating tendencies from within. "Fascism," he said, "means the collaboration of all classes, the respect of religion and the development of all national energies. It is a doctrine of life and not of death."

1949: Nehru on War

NEW DELHI — Any attempt to regiment the world in a particular economic pattern could be a cause of war, Indian Premier Jawaharlal Nehru said. The wisest course, he said, is to allow each nation to work out its own destiny. Two other things which could lead to war, he said, are colonialism, as in Indonesia, which results in a vicious circle of mutual intolerance, and racial intolerance, as in South Africa, which offers a challenge to the self-respect of millions of colored people.

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Internet address: <http://www.ihb.com> E-Mail: ihb@ihb.com

Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 5 Convent Road, Singapore 190001. Tel: (65) 472-7768. Fax: (65) 774-2334.
Mgr. Dir. Asia: Nigel I. Oakes, #1201, 191 Jena Road, Hong Kong. Tel: 852-3622-1188. Fax: 852-3622-1190.
Gen. Mgr. Germany: J. Schöten, Friedrichstr. 15, 10117 Frankfurt/M. Tel: +49 69 97129-0. Fax: +49 69 97129-20.
U.S. Office: 850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel: (212) 753-3800. Fax: (212) 753-4075.
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OPINION/LETTERS

Paying Homage to India's Democracy

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW DELHI — When I was young in India, for four years I reported a story I wrote of as "the great adventure" and believe it was one of the most important of our century.

During the decade after India became independent a half-century ago, I relished that story. Almost alone among countries newly freed from colonialism, India had chosen and kept democracy as its governance. The others mostly went quickly under hard-foot government — communism, fascism, militarism, justism, whatever it chose to be called.

Each time I return, I know India's decision remains central and hopeful for itself and the world. But America and its allies think about India with a mixture of condescension and irritability at its desire to be seen and heard — when they think of it at all.

Every Indian government has resented "India Who?" but somehow managed to carry on. For precisely a year, for instance, India has been writing some pages in its history that may shape the adventure as none since Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru died in 1964 and his Congress Party ousted itself from power by arrogance and corruption.

The current governing coalition, 14 parties headed by the Hindu-centered Bharatiya Janata Party, will stay in power or lose it depending on three things.

One is the ability of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to wean his party from the wildly bigoted Hindu-first hard-liners and toward a moderation they detest.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Red Cross Response

Regarding "Israel's Symbol Deserves Recognition by the Red Cross" (Opinion, March 13) by David A. Harris:

In his article on the relations between Israel's Magen David Adom and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which includes the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, expresses an understandable frustration. The issue has been one of concern for the movement and efforts are being made to remedy the situation. Let me therefore set out the facts, which clearly demonstrate that we are not pursuing a policy of "discrimination and exclusion" against Magen David Adom by not admitting that society into the international federation.

Contrary to Mr. Harris's assertion, the international federation does not at present have the power to admit Magen David Adom. A society can only become a member once it is recognized. The conditions for recognition are not determined by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement alone. The Geneva conventions, to which 188 states, including Israel, are now parties, form the legal basis upon which the movement operates, and recognize only three emblems, one of which has fallen into disuse since the Iranian revolution. The remaining two, the red cross and the red crescent, are used by the 175 societies that have been recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross and admitted to the international federation.

There are a number of states and societies, including Magen David Adom, which have problems using one of the two emblems, and some would like to use both. Because of this, in 1995, the movement initiated a process of studying solutions to these issues, including, as Mr. Harris suggests, the possible use of a new third emblem for states and societies that have a problem with the existing recognized emblems.

A solution is not, however, in the hands of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Informal consultations are being held in order to determine which solution would be acceptable to states as any solution would require either change to, or exemption from, the provisions of the Geneva conventions and needs the consent of all parties.

I should also not forget to mention and praise here the increasingly excellent cooperation between Magen David Adom and our movement in activities on behalf of the vulnerable people in Israel and elsewhere.

GEORGE WEBER, Geneva.

The writer is secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Another is his still-forming economic strategy. How far and fast will he move India from its mixture of private enterprise and strangulation by regulation toward economic openness inviting investment?

But to move at all he will have to end the outbreak of persecution of the small Christian minority. Churches

Christians are only 2 percent of India's billion people. But what one minority suffers, all others fear.

The persecution is the work of Hindu nationalists supporting Mr. Vajpayee. He will have to choose between issuing one more denunciation of the persecution and taking action that will cost him extremist backing that

India's leaders have failed the people. But Indians have consistently insisted on their own fundamentalism — the right to vote politicians into office.

have been burned, worshippers beaten and murdered.

The police dawdle. A government investigation commission has publicly protested its lack of resources and power.

This in a country where a man once considered an untouchable is president, where almost every minority — Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jews, Buddhists — have reached high office, where Mother Teresa received a state funeral.

It is a country where civil peace depends on the constitutional guarantees of equality among India's religions — almost as many as the world's.

helped bring him to office.

All these years, India's political and religious leaders and its wealthy have failed the India people. For hundreds of millions, the poverty still is an insult to their very humanity.

India still has enough street-sleepers to populate a sizable nation. Scores of thousands in its capital live in hovels built on slits so that perhaps during monsoons open sewers will not flood inside with excrement.

But through it all Indians consistently insisted on their own fundamentalism — the right to vote politicians into office, or out.

The West sometimes re-

members India, as when India wins its attention by carrying out nuclear tests.

But Kosovo, Bosnia, Somalia, bananas — those are the big "foreign" concerns for Americans.

Also: Can America succeed in appeasing China, which is a perpetual threat to India? Can the United States make China stronger with trade that costs America military secrets and a yearly commercial imbalance of \$50 billion?

Europeans at least are consistent, historically regarding Asia as a mango to be sliced up or squeezed into juice.

Strange thing — not a Western word is said about where the world would be if Indians had chosen the Mao or Stalin way, or Saddam Hussein's. We certainly would not be one bit condescending or irritable about India.

We would be too busy worrying about how to deal with a totalitarian axis running through Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, with headquarters in Beijing, Moscow and New Delhi — if we were allowed to deal at all.

Indians chose the freedom of democracy for their sakes, not ours.

Still, it is nice to remember that choose it they did, and still are.

The New York Times

For Academics, Too, It's all in the Telling

By Richard Pells

AUSTIN, Texas — Recently, several articles in American newspapers have described the irrelevance of professors to the nation's political and cultural life.

Some see this as evidence of America's historic hostility to intellectuals. Others cite the diminishing sales figures for scholarly books on public affairs, and the resulting unwillingness of publishers to invest in works not aimed at a mass market.

The articles all concede, however, that most American academics write miserably. I do not think this is because

MEANWHILE

scholars are uninterested in social problems, or lack the skill to compose a lucid sentence. Nor does their fascination with complicated ideas compel them to choose a bigger word when a smaller one will do. No, academics write badly on purpose. Why?

One motive is fear. Graduate students and assistant professors are terrified of unemployment. They know that members of hiring and promotion committees like to clone themselves. So academic neophytes adopt an esoteric language designed to please their mentors, and the scholarly experts who recommend or reject a manuscript for publication. They learn to use trendy post-modernist words like "discourse" and "contextualize," and to mention everything ever written about their subject. I have often heard my younger colleagues refer to their first work as a "tenure book," which will get them a secure job, but is not de-

signed to be a means of communicating with the outside world.

Another motive is snobbery. Academics are distrustful of best-sellers. They reject the idea that a widely read book might be good. They suspect that to write a popular book, an academic must be superficial and willing to settle for sound bites. There is no harsher epithet in a scholar's vocabulary than to call a book "journalistic."

Yet scholarly prose is often unintelligible not so much because professors are anxious about their careers, or indifferent to how many books they sell, or prisoners of a hierarchical world that demands stylistic conformity. Academics pay little attention to the clarity or elegance of their sentences, because they regard themselves as scholars first and writers second.

As scholars, they want mainly to talk to other specialists in their "field." Moreover, many academics enjoy research, and are euphoric when they discover a trave of letters in someone's attic. They cannot wait to publish their findings. What matters to them is the information and the method by which it was obtained, not the language in which it is conveyed. Academics rarely think of research as something one does offstage, before the curtain goes up and the real performance — which is the writing — begins.

Yet books, even scholarly books, are performances, just like movies or plays. We may not know much about the camera work or the stage directions, but

when we attend a performance, we want to be moved and engaged by what we are seeing. What counts in a written performance is not the theoretical apparatus or the research techniques but the writer's "voice."

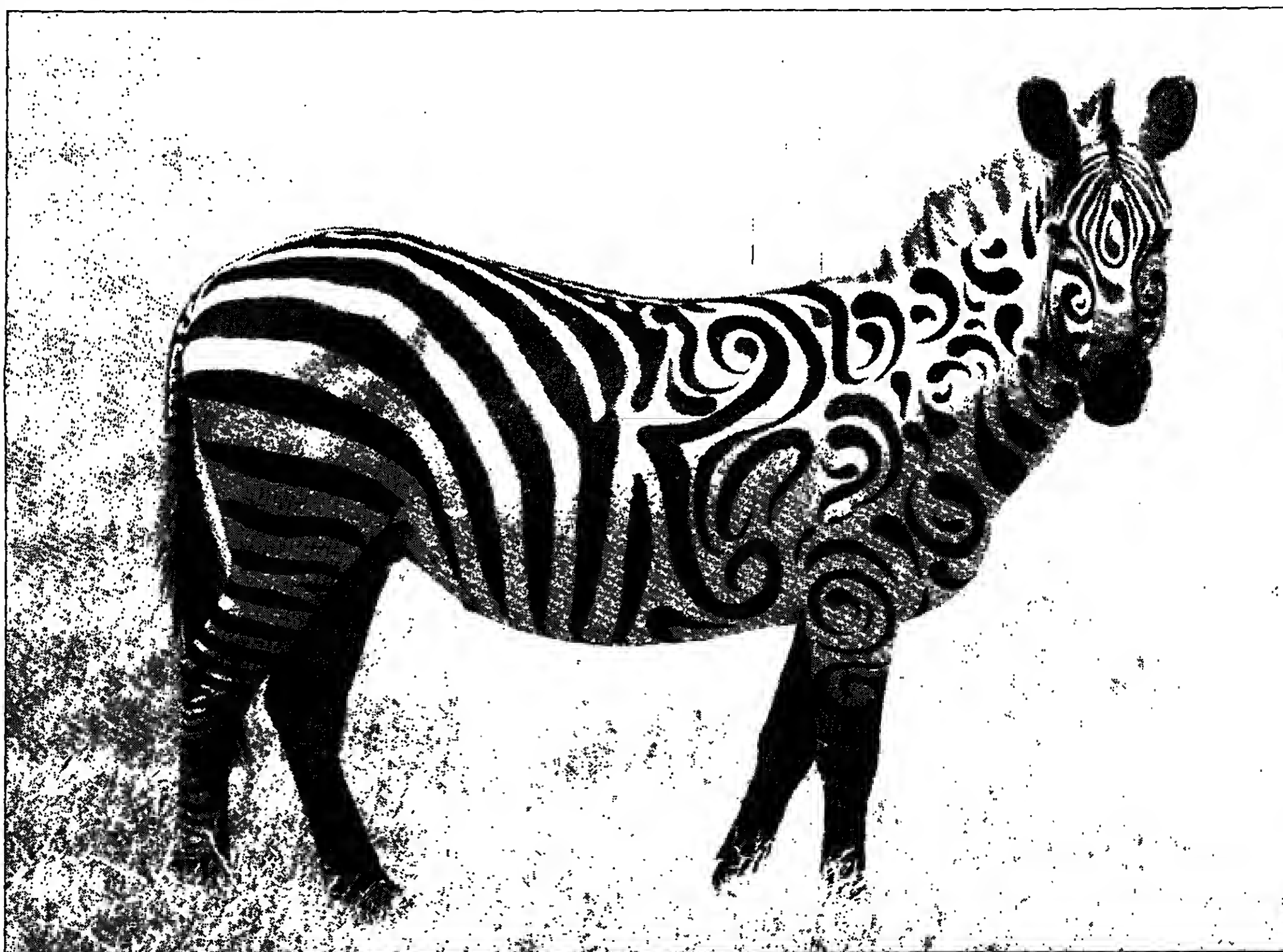
If academics thought of themselves as writers, their sensitivity to their audience would intensify. They might want to be read not just by their peers but by readers in other fields or people with no connection at all to the university.

Some American academics have written successfully for both a scholarly and a general audience. In the 1950s, David Riesman's "The Lonely Crowd" and John Kenneth Galbraith's "The Affluent Society" influenced millions of readers. More recently, Harold Bloom's "Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human" has reached a wide audience because it was not addressed exclusively to Shakespearean scholars.

But too many academics, including historians, are content to write only for one another. The result is that America's scholars are increasingly isolated from the public, with little impact on social issues or cultural trends.

Worst of all, academics are not putting on a good show. Which is why Americans these days learn their history from Steven Spielberg or James Cameron, rather than from us.

The writer, a historian at the University of Texas, is the author of "Not Like Us: How Europeans Have Loved, Hated, and Transformed American Culture Since World War II." He contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.



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Seeing Jazz in Black and White

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Subtitled "White Musicians and Their Contribution to Jazz, 1915-1945," Richard Sudhalter's book "Lost Chords" is based on the premise that white jazz musicians who worked in the music's formative years spent their careers overlooked, made underrated music and were the victims of reverse racism, known as Crow Jim.

The trumpeter Clark Terry, who is black, once remarked: "A note don't know who blew it." And Jack Teagarden said to Louis Armstrong: "You a spade and I'm an ofay. We got the same soul. Let's blow." Both quotes are used in the book and add to the controversy that is growing around it. This month, the saxophonist Branford Marsalis reacted to all of it with quiet venom: "It does not deserve the dignity of a response. It's not an argument I'm prepared to devote five minutes to."

This 747-page volume is going to fly, however, like it or not. It will take up shelf space in book shops, libraries and universities for years to come. Comprehensive yet an easy read, dealing with such interesting people as Miff Mole, Pee Wee Russell and Artie Shaw, well researched by a respected scholar (Sudhalter co-wrote a biography of Bix Beiderbecke), it is being reviewed and taken seriously by other scholars. Nor responding might also be undignified.

Sudhalter's article explaining his book ran on the front page of the Arts & Leisure section of The New York Times on Jan. 3. Two weeks later, there was a half page of letters of response from readers, pro and con. The spin is that "Lost Chords" is a big book.

Sudhalter, who has been called the Patrick Buchanan of jazz, denies he is belittling the importance of the African-American contribution. (He also is a professional trumpeter.) Presenting his case, he writes that black musicians "primacy, and the reverence in which they are held, belong to the unquestioned foundation on which the entire edifice rests." However, "mounting scholarly evidence indicates that a distinct, significant and creative white presence has existed in jazz from its first days." The influence has been, he concludes, "inconceivably two-way."

The assumption that the land is di-

vided by race is simplistic at best. Actually, the "influence" has been multidirectional, person-to-person, epoch-to-epoch and place-to-place as much as color-to-color. To understand about "not deserving the dignity of a response," understand that the better and more energetically you refuse the color-based premise in the subtitle, the more credibility you give it. An intelligently reasoned rebuttal means that the question is worth serious thought and discussion.



The jazz cornetist Bix Beiderbecke in Davenport, Iowa, in a 1921 photograph.

To draw a parallel, a white musician was engaged by the U.S. State Department to tour apartheid-ruled South Africa with a racially integrated quartet. The leader soon realized that three black musicians would be back to the plantation in the days of slavery. Only one would be tokenism. It had to be two plus two. And so even trying to be "fair" about it, and even before he had left home, he found himself obliged to think in racial terms, which he had always tried to avoid. He remembered the Bob Dylan line about people wanting to drag you down into the hole that they're in.

The California Ramblers, the '20s band led by Adrian Rollini, was a "social

phenomenon," writes Sudhalter, and then they became a "musical landmark." They had a "surefire formula for success." They were "clean-cut, good-looking, well-spoken and musically no worse than anyone else." Questions arise. Would they have been as successful if they had been black? And if they have since been forgotten, are we to understand that it is because they were white?

The stuff all leads to the same predictable segregated place. It is not unlike a French thinker advertising the superiority of French thought amid the surrounding Anglo-American world. Or, for that matter, like a French jazz musician talking about how the Americans think they own all the licks.

After the "greats," most of whom were black, invented the music, the mass of people who followed were just that: a mass of followers. Below the genius level, we all tend to resemble one another. Some were more creative than others. Whether they were also lighter or darker is less important. Jazz now crosses borders all the time. Passports are no longer required. Everybody is influencing everybody everywhere; each of them takes the culture their own way. Thousands of ways.

Looking at it from today's point of view, the musicians Sudhalter writes about are far away from any definition of anything resembling the cutting edge. Their influence has long since been assimilated. Consequently, the subject is of secondary interest. No more, no less than, say, segregated black bands in the Midwest during the same time frame.

During the time discussed in this book, almost every jazz player, no matter what color, worked in the musical equivalent of the Negro baseball leagues. Separate but unequal, they plied their trade before small crowds on the outskirts of history. Their triumphs went unnoticed. Halls of Fame ignored them. Orchestral musicians disdained them. Paid in inverse proportion to their level of their work, badly mouthed by pop musicians who were jealous that they played so well, drinking themselves to death when they found they did not know how to compromise, all were heroes.

Back then, black and white heroes could not play in the same bands. Wouldn't it be nice if they could be in the same book now?



Dholi Oparei, left, as Hector and Raymond Coulthard as Achilles in "Troilus and Cressida" at the National.

A Glorious 'Troilus and Cressida'

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Almost two years after he replaced Richard Eyre as its director, we at last have the real opening of the Trevor Nunn National Theatre. True, he has not been exactly idle in the meantime, what with "Oklahoma" now in the West End, and his "Not About Nightingales" triumphing on Broadway with Corn Redgrave at the head of the original Anglo-American cast.

But Nunn's production, with John Caird, on the Olivier stage of "Troilus and Cressida," the darkest and most difficult of all Shakespeare's war plays, also marks the opening of a permanent company at the National that will play for a year on all three stages in everything from Gorky to Leonard Bernstein. And the choice of "Troilus" for openers is probably not accidental, given that it was with precisely this cynical masterpiece that Peter Hall first established the birth of his Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford back in 1960 in the famous "sandbox" production.

Until this century, the play was hardly seen; but since the First War, that has all changed as directors and actors and audiences alike have realized that, in all its bleak and black satirical glory, this "wars and lechery" masterpiece is the most consistently topical of all the Bard.

This does not mean, of course, that (as in a recently dire RSC staging at the Barbican) you have to set it in contemporary Bosnia or Northern Ireland in the desperate search for relevance and involvement. But "Troilus" does in fact play directly to Nunn's considerable strengths as a director — an epic, sprawling tapestry of the Trojan Wars, with a spotlight forever switching from one character to another and one subplot to the next. The only real surprise here is that Boulton/Schönberg never considered its possibilities as a musical.

Nunn's new company is already just terrific: Such experienced character players as Denis Quilley, Oliver Cotton, David Burt and Oscar James join such relative newcomers as (in the title roles) Peter de Jersey and Sophie Okonedo, while the magnificent evil double-act of Pandarus and Thersites is brought to sinister life by David Bamber and Jasper Britton.

In its loog, tortured and torturous debate about the ethics of war and peace, the uses of ego and self-denial, "Troilus" runs almost four hours; but it is just great to have this one back in its full, complex Shakespearean glory. And above all, after the fiasco of the Sean Mathias "Antony & Cleopatra" on this same Olivier stage a few months ago, it is good to know that the National is back in the serious Shakespeare business.

Despite the evidence of this year's Oscars and a Broadway unusually full of British actors and dramatists, theatrical crossings of the Atlantic are never quite as easy as the musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Cameron Mackintosh have made them seem. If they were, we'd have had "The Mousetrap" on Broadway for half a century and "The Fantasticks" would be celebrating a similar birthday over here.

But visitors to New York, for the last 20 years or so, have come across "Forbidden Broadway," Gerard Alessandrini's savagely brilliant succession of revues parodying the Great White Way and usually seen over a drink at a dinner theater. Over here, the show has been tried once or twice without much success, and often faltered foul of tougher British libel laws. But now at last, hooray and hallelujah, we have the best of "Forbidden Broadway" only a few hundred yards off Shaftesbury Avenue at the ideal Jermyn Street Theatre, and it is looking and sounding as brilliant as ever it has on home territory.

Savage parodies of Sremsand, Minnelli, Carol Channing and our very own Elaine Paige are just the start of it: lethal attacks on the "Oklahoma" makeover, "Grease" ("Reuro kusch can make you rich"), the appallingly pretentious "Li-on King" ("Disney turns the Great White Way on, using stories told in crayon"), "Cabaret" ("Do the words Third Reich mean anything to you?"), Mandy Patinkin ("If Barbara Streisand gets to be a very indulgent, why oh why can't I?"), Chita Rivera and Rita Moreno trying desperately to get their audience to tell one from the other, and, brilliant above all else, the old "Aitchison, Topekka and the Santa Fe" railway anthem sung not

by a radiant Judy Garland, but by a suicidal Anna Karenina about to hurl herself under its wheels.

Alessandrini is far and away the greatest unsung satirist of our showbiz times, and his passion for Broadway (or at least the Broadway past) in all its awful bits and flops is still what shines through every savage attack he makes. Until you have seen the whole of "Les Miserables" performed in five minutes by four people pretending to be on a revolving stage, you haven't lived in the world of laterday trans-Atlantic musicals at all. Philip George triumphantly directs a local quartet (Sophie-Louise Damm, Mark O'Malley, Alastair Robins and Christine Pedli) in the greatest revue of the 1990s, an acid cocktail to the business that is show.

After their triumph last summer with "Tarry Flynn," the Dublin Abbey Theatre's director-choreographer team of Conall Morrison and David Bolger (who have since gone on to the highly successful remaking of "Martin Guerre," now on a regional British tour and Broadway-bound) has returned to the South Bank with another amazing rediscovery, this time of the 1860 Dion Boucicault epic melodrama "The Colleen Bawn." This was a would-be silent movie 40 years or so ahead of its time: drownings in a stage lake, amazing rescues, death-defying leaps from cliff to cliff, could all have been played out by the elder Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, since Boucicault was the first to realize the 19th-century audience's hunger for sheer spectacle.

It is even possible to make a more serious academic case for the play, with the heroine as Ireland herself torn apart by evil English occupiers. But essentially what matters here, as in the author's more familiar "The Shaughraun," is an extraordinary sense of the atypical vitality that in 150 years has seldom been matched. This Abbey cast seems a little unsure as to whether they should be going for performance or parody, but as always the Morrison-Bolger team keeps things moving fast and furiously enough to distract us from all the problems of a somewhat overwrought and undernourished plot.

BOOKS

CAIRO

The City Victorious

By Max Rodenbeck, 300 pages, \$27.50. Alfred A. Knopf. Reviewed by Edward Mortimer

IF THE BEST RULERS ARE those who do not seek power, perhaps sometimes the best books are those whose authors tried not to write them.

Max Rodenbeck is such an author. He is well aware of the pitfalls of a genre that one of his predecessors, as long ago as 1876, called "the turbid overflow of journalistic travel." Books about cities, he told the friend who first urged him to write one on Cairo, "were of two kinds. They were either travelogues or histories, and I knew that while a travel story could barely scratch the surface of Cairo's depth, a straight history was sure to founder in the immensity of the city's past."

Also, he admits, at that time he was "falling out of love" with a city that was changing too fast, and in ways he did not like. Later, after a three-year absence, he returned, deciding the book was, after all, an "offering" he owed to the city that "had given me so many stories and whose people had been so unfailingly kind."

So which is it, travelogue or history? A bit of both. But Rodenbeck, a correspondent for The Economist, eludes the pitfalls of both genres. His travels about the city, which has been his home on and off since age 2, certainly do much more than scratch the surface. And yet his history does skim gracefully over that immense past without getting sucked into it.

Approach Cairo from the air and you see at once why it, and the various Egyptian capitals that preceded it in that short stretch of valley — Memphis, Heliopolis, Babylon (a Roman name), Fustat — are where they are. It is there that the thin green snake of the Nile Valley, so tightly and clearly bounded by desert for hundreds of miles southward, suddenly opens out to the north in the great triangle of the Delta. Here is the unmistakable gateway between Upper and Lower Egypt, the point that any ruler of both kingdoms since 3000 B.C. has had to control.

Rodenbeck rightly dwells on the shape of Cairo: on the way its center has migrated through the millennium within this short stretch of the narrow valley, as successive rulers or ruling elites have sought to shake free of the teeming masses and build new, salubrious compounds

for themselves and their Praetorian Guards. The city's geography, he suggests, reflects a sharp and enduring gap between public and private behavior: between those with money to spend, who spend it recklessly in a desperate attempt to keep up appearances, and those without, who live in conditions of cheerful and uninhibited squalor.

"Poorer Cairoites seemed to have more fun," a visitor who arrived with Napoleon in 1798 noted; and according to Rodenbeck they still do, indulging "more freely than their 'betters' in drug-taking, flirting, joke-making and general tomfoolery." He contrasts the joie de vivre of the "Popular Quarters" — "minicantinas packed with spontaneous revelry" — with "the costly ballroom affairs of the rich," which are "monotonously staid."

And, he goes on, it may also be "a comfort to Cairo's poor that time is probably on their side. One day, if history is destined to repeat itself, the spacious quarters of the rich will be theirs. The fact is that the city's multiple avatars have all been born as exclusive zones for the elite but have ended their days in the hands of the people. If there is one trait that has always marked this city, it is this eternal, restless shifting." Each pharaoh probably built a palace complex next to his pyramid. After his death the court moved on, building mud huts inside the temple courtyard and turning it into "a kind of sacred slum." And three millennia later, Muslim rulers followed a similar pattern, repeatedly abandoning older quarters "that had grown too dense for courtly luxury."

In more recent times, the elegant boulevards laid out by Khedive Ismail in the 19th

century have become more and more crowded, dusty and down at heel: "In once-gracious garden districts such as Maadi, Heliopolis and Zamalek, high-rises have supplanted villas as fast as sledgehammers and pile drivers can pound." Even new districts such as Muhandisin, west of the river, have succumbed to degeneration "as today's super-rich literally head for the hills." It doesn't sound very attractive, and indeed few people would be attracted by any purely factual description of late-20th-century Cairo. It is a very dirty, overpopulated, crumbling place, with a large number of very poor people and a small number of very unprepossessing rich ones.

Rodenbeck does not conceal any of this. He does manage to communicate something of the unique charm that draws so many visitors back to Cairo.

"The decay may be sad," Rodenbeck says, "but in compensation the place is alive. It is a city in progress, with nothing of the pickled, sterilized quality of many a European Altstadt or the resurrected cuteness of colonial Williamsburg." The narrow lanes "are still no wider than the medievally prescribed breadth of two laden camels, and they are still largely pedestrian. Aside, that is, from the beasts of burden that have replaced the once ubiquitous donkeys, which is to say diminutive Suzuki trucks rigged with Taiwanese sirens that play the 'Lambada' tune."

The temptation is to go on quoting, for much of the book is in the same vein. But I hope by now I have conveyed the flavor of it, as it so richly conveys that of the city.

Edward Mortimer, author of "Faith and Power: The Politics of Islam," wrote this for The New York Times.

BEST SELLERS

The New York Times This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on the list are not necessarily consecutive.			
FICTION			
Week	Title	Author	Weeks on list
1	THE TESTAMENT, by John Grisham	John Grisham	1
2	RIVER'S END, by Nora Roberts	Nora Roberts	7
3	SINGLE & SINGLE, by John Grisham	John Grisham	1
4	ASHES TO ASHES, by Tami Hoag	Tami Hoag	1
5	STAR ROAD, by Maureen Dowd	Maureen Dowd	1
6	ARIELLYN, by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins	Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins	2
7	THE COOL, by Elmore Leonard	Elmore Leonard	4
8	A Sudden Change of Heart, by Barbara Taylor	Barbara Taylor	6
9	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS, by J.K. Rowling	J.K. Rowling	11
10	THE PERSONAL BIBLE, by Barbara Kingsolver	Barbara Kingsolver	8
11	VECTUR, by Robert Coyle	Robert Coyle	1
12	AMY AND ISABELLE, by Elizabeth Strout	Elizabeth Strout	9
13	SOUTHERN CROSS, by Patricia Cornwell	Patricia Cornwell	3
14	A MAN IN FULL, by Tom Wolfe	Tom Wolfe	10
15	WHILE I WAS GONE, by Sue Miller	Sue Miller	12
NONFICTION			
1	MONICA'S STORY, by Andrew Morton	Andrew Morton	1
2	THE GREATEST GENERATION, by Tom Brinkley	Tom Brinkley	14
3	TUESDAY'S MORNING, by Mitch Albom	Mitch Albom	2
4	PERFECT MURDER, by Lawrence Sanders	Lawrence Sanders	3
5	REACHING TO HEAVEN, by James Van Hise	James Van Hise	5
6	TRAVELING MERCIES, by Anne Lamott	Anne Lamott	7
7	BLIND MAN'S BLUFF, by Sherry Sussman and Christopher Drew	Sherry Sussman and Christopher Drew	16
8	THE ART OF HAPPINESS, by Robert C. Merton	Robert C. Merton	6
9	BEAUTY PAGES, DUMB FOREVER, by Jack Schindler	Jack Schindler	4
10	THE ENDURANCE, by Caroline Alexander	Caroline Alexander	14
11	CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD, Book 1, by Neale Donald Walsch	Neale Donald Walsch	11
12	THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN, by Simon Winchester	Simon Winchester	13
13	FIRST PERSON PLURAL, by Carson Kressley	Carson Kressley	10
14	THE CENTURY, by Peter Jennings and Todd Bennett	Peter Jennings and Todd Bennett	9
15	PLAYING FOR KEEPS, by David Halberstam	David Halberstam	12
ADVICE, HOW-TO & MISCELLANEOUS			
1	SUGAR BUSTERS!, by H. Leighton Stewart et al.	H. Leighton Stewart et al.	1
2	REAL AGE, by Michael F. Roizen and Elizabeth Barrett-Stein	Michael F. Roizen and Elizabeth Barrett-Stein	1
3	ONE DAY MY SOUL JUST OPENED UP, by Brenda Zimmerman	Brenda Zimmerman	3
4	HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT AND WANT WHAT YOU HAVE, by John Gray	John Gray	2

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Skin Tone Sets a Brazilian Beat

By Ben Ratliff
New York Times Staff

SALVADOR, Brazil — In Salvador, capital of the Brazilian state of Bahia, which has one of the richest carnival traditions in the world, all the connoisseurs of Bahia's Carnival have the same thing jotted down in their agendas: to attend the start of the Ile Aye parade.

Ile Aye is one of the various carnival organizations, called *bloco*, that sponsor floats and parades throughout the six-day street festival that engulfs this city.

But of all of them it is perhaps the purest. Its percussion-and-voice band has refused to go pop, sticking to the slow, stately *ijexa* rhythms — an African sort of samba associated with the Afro-Brazilian religion of *candomblé*. It insists on walking through the streets rather than riding on a sound truck the way other bands do.

And unlike the rest of the "bloco" that followed Ile Aye's lead, springing into existence since the 1970s, Ile Aye stubbornly stresses the "afro" part. It still does not admit whites, or even mixed-race Brazilians, into its organization.

But that policy does not keep people of all skin tones from visiting Ile Aye's headquarters, a small two-story house on a steep hill in the city's large black neighborhood called Liberdade. Inside the house recently, the group was preparing for its big night. In the back room, this year's "queen" of the bloco was being fitted with an elaborate headdress of silvery fabric.

In an anteroom, four women, elders of Ile Aye, sat dressed in the fluffy white costumes associated with Bahia. At the appointed moment, the women filed out into the street, throwing

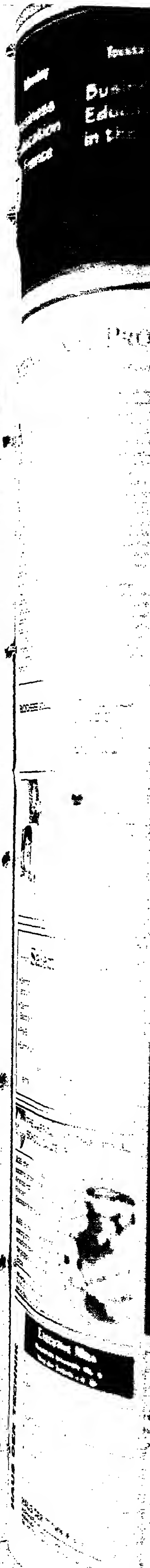
hominny and popcorn and flour around them. About 150 drummers in red, white, black and yellow shirts — the colors of Ile Aye — assembled into a column in the street, with a conductor at the head. The drummers started a slow, thick, lumbering two-beat rhythm.

Fireworks exploded from the crest of the hill. A trumpet fanfare sounded from the second-floor balcony of the house, and a number of officials — including Antonio Carlos Santos de Vovo (known simply as Vovo), Ile Aye's leader, and Antonio Imbassahy, the mayor of Salvador, released doves into the air. Then Ile Aye set off on a 20-kilometer (12-mile) march, which ended in the center of town six hours later.

The story of Ile Aye's 25 years offers a window on some of the ambiguities of racial politics in Salvador, Brazil's oldest city. Its government is predominantly white while its population is 75 percent black. Racial discrimination is illegal, and for an outsider it is as easy to see Salvador as a multicolored paradise of racial tolerance as it is to notice that the darkest-skinned people live at the bottom of the economic ladder.

Ile Aye's founding was an act of courage. At the time, Brazil's military dictatorship forbade any kind of social activism or protest. But now its policy of limiting membership to only the darkest black Bahians seems hard to justify. Even Margaret Menezes, a popular singer from Bahia, has been denied admission; she was judged not black enough. In a region with a wide range of skin tones, only the darkest are considered black at all.

But most Bahians do not see Ile Aye's exclusion policy as an insult; they consider its Afro-Brazilian music acts as a sort of cultural home base that is much needed in the increasingly



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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS ON THE RISE

More schools in Germany and Austria are offering international curricula and faculty.

A new international segment has appeared in German and Austrian systems of secondary and higher education. Comprised of a rapidly multiplying number of international private and progressive high schools and university-level programs, its rise has left education experts concerned that the system may be dividing itself into separate — and unequal — halves.

Germany's universities now offer more than 60 international degree programs, according to a survey published in early March by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), Germany's academic exchange service.

For the DAAD, a program is international when English is its principal language of instruction: around half of its

attendees come from outside Germany; it leads to a bachelor's, master's or other "international" degree; a significant percentage of its teachers are foreign or have an international background; and its students spend part of their time learning abroad.

For example, the master's program in international agricultural sciences (IAGS) offered by Berlin's Humboldt University fits DAAD's bill to a tee. The program is taught in English, and more than half of this year's 25 students come from outside Germany.

University partnerships. The program is headed by Harald von Witzke, himself an "international" by virtue of having taught for 13 years at the University of Minnesota in the United States. Like the program's other part-

ners — Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands, the University of Stirling in Britain and University College Dublin — Minnesota sends lecturers to IAGS, whose courses are also taught by other visiting international faculty. Students are required to spend one semester studying at one of these institutions.

IAGS has something in common with its 59 counterparts: its youth. Like about half of them, IAGS was started up in September 1997; the rest were launched last year. As the newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung reports, nearly all of the 60 have gotten off to promising starts — so promising that more such programs are planned.

Equally in demand are the high school curricula, also often taught in English by international faculty. They feed students into the international programs.

This trend is also present in Austria. An example is provided by the country's In-

ternational Management Academy. Located in Linz, the IMA offers a "global executive MBA" in conjunction with Atlanta's Emory University and the University of Toronto. The program, which is taught in English, features three residence modules in North America, Central Europe and Asia.

Times change. This is all a far cry from a decade ago, when higher education in this part of Central Europe was very much a German affair: it was taught only in German by native professors to students receiving local degrees.

Aside from the expatriates teaching English, French and other foreign languages, and a scattering of branch operations of American universities, the only non-German elements in the countries' educational systems were found at the secondary level. In Germany and Austria's international schools.

These largely employed foreign or "internationalized" teachers. Their main language of instruction was English, and they offered international baccalaureates (IBs) and other high school diplomas foreign to the German system. All this made international schools outsiders in the German educational community, a situation



that has since changed. "Our classrooms are regularly visited by teachers and administrators from non-international schools," reports Günther Brandt, headmaster of the Frankfurt International School.

Why are the country's educators flocking to the international schools? Is it the opportunity to get acquainted with the nuts and bolts of an international-style curriculum? Mr. Brandt says: "That, plus the opportunity to experience how we help our students become lifetime learners. This is done by instilling in them a basic store of knowledge and the capacity to decide how best to deploy and augment it when taking on new situations. It's our ability to inculcate both a love of learning and a flexible approach and mind-set that lures Germany's education professionals to visit our school."

A number of Germany's education experts view the growth and appeal of international schools and programs as a challenge to the more traditional ones. The traditional schools, they say, are at times too reluctant to learn from the international ones, even though considerable opportunities exist.

NEW INCENTIVES TO GRADUATE

The introduction of tuition has fueled debate on university reform.

Germany's university students, it is said, take too long to get their degrees. For many of them, attaining a degree is, in any case, not the main reason for being enrolled at a university — it's the free health care and other benefits that student status confers.

While there is widespread agreement in Germany with the above statement, there is little consensus on how best to discourage "perennial studenthood."

Levyng tuition has been the answer chosen by the states of Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg and Saxony. Bavaria and Saxony now require students holding an academic degree and planning to embark upon a new course of studies to pay 1,000 Deutsche marks (\$560) a semester for the privilege. Students taking too long to finish up a degree in Baden-Württemberg have to fork over the same amount. Other states have announced that they, too, plan to introduce similar "incentives."

Arguments against. The states' implementation of these measures has met with fierce opposition from Germany's ruling coalition, which is pushing for measures to ban them, and from the students themselves. They argue that the long study

times are caused by the congestion at German universities and by their own need to earn a living while going to school. According to students, what is needed is more state funding for new campuses, libraries and teaching positions.

Other critics argue that changing the credit system at German universities would be more effective than either levying tuition or providing more money. This is what is emerging from the country's 60 "international" programs, whose first classes of students will graduate this summer.

Many of these programs use an American-style system, in which students graduate after having earned the required number of credits, which varies according to the course. Courses are scheduled so as to encourage "stacking" — taking several required courses simultaneously. Other features of the system are regular testing and reporting of grade-point averages.

This is in sharp contrast with the traditional German system, in which all courses are basically of equal credit value.

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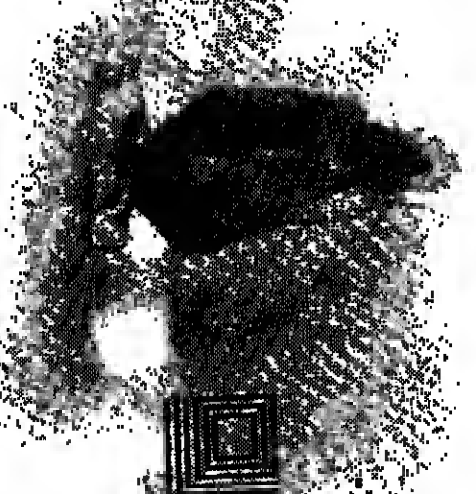
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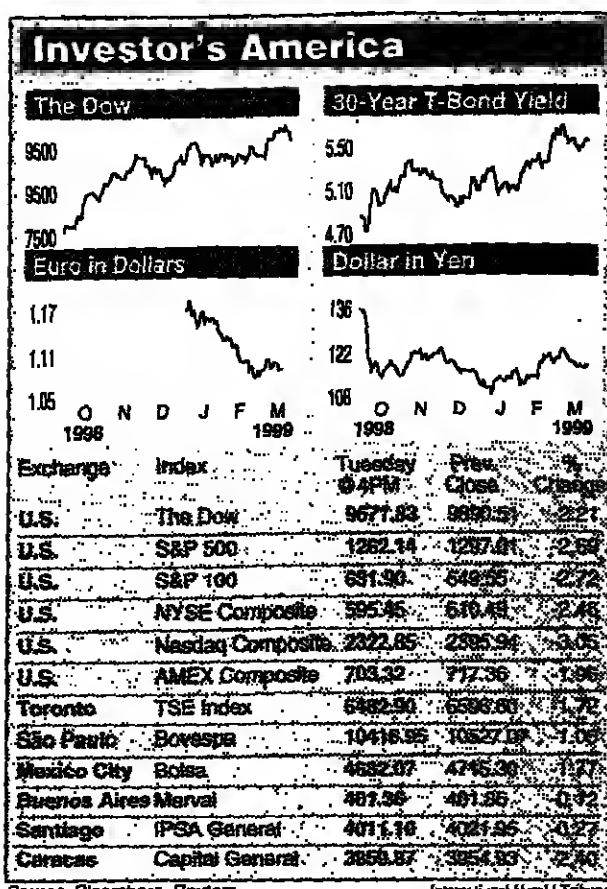
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CURRENCY

Continued on Page 16

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THE AMERICAS



Worries Over Profits and Kosovo Tensions Pummel Stocks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The Dow Jones industrial average retreated further from the 10,000 milestone Tuesday as stock prices plummeted on concerns that corporate profits may not be able to sustain the market's lofty level.

Investors also were unsettled by the prospect that NATO could soon bomb Yugoslavia.

The Dow industrials plunged 218.68 points, or nearly 2.2 percent, to 5,871.83 for its third straight decline. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 34.87 points, or 2.7 percent, to 1,281.54. The Nasdaq composite index tumbled 28.94 points, or 1.4 percent, to 2,022.65.

"There really isn't a lot of earnings growth underneath the market as a whole," said Charles Clough, chief portfolio strategist at Merrill Lynch. He was concerned

that the average U.S. stock has dropped about 6 percent this year.

Software companies and computer makers, which led the mar-

U.S. STOCKS

ket's advance for the past three years, were at the forefront of the decline Tuesday.

"The real earnings difficulty is still in the technology area," said Tom Hudson, a money manager at Lord Abbett Affiliated Fund. "One of the strongest groups that has taken this market up is technology, and there is a fundamental concern here about PC pricing."

"This is a really good opportunity for these stock averages to take a break and correct," said Louise Yamada, technical strategist for Salomon Smith Barney.

But on Tuesday long-term interest rates slipped Tuesday as AT&T met strong demand for its sale of \$8 billion of debt in the highest corporate bond sale ever.

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose 7/32 to 95 20/32, and the yield, which moves inversely to the price, fell to 5.55 percent from 5.57 percent on Monday.

AT&T had enough investors lining up for its bonds that it was able to increase the size of its sale from an original \$5 billion to \$6 billion.

People familiar with the sale said orders reached \$11.5 billion.

Among the stock market's big movers, America Online fell 8 3/4 to 121 1/4, after rising 46 percent since the beginning of the month.

The valuations on the Internet stocks are through the roof," said Jim Benning, a trader at BT Brokerage, who speculated people are selling AOL now because it rose so much so quickly.

Yahoo! shares fell amid speculation the Internet search company is negotiating to buy Broadcast.com, an on-line provider of sports, news and music through live Internet events.

Coca-Cola fell 1 3/4 to 65 15/16 after analysts at Merrill Lynch, Douglas Lane and Emanuel Goldman, cut their earnings estimates for the first quarter and for 1999.

The analysts said Coke's markets in Latin America and Japan appear to be deteriorating, though they expect the worst to be over after the second quarter. They cut their first-quarter estimate by a penny to 31 cents and their 1999 estimate to \$1.45 from \$1.50.

Pillowtex, which makes Fieldcrest linens and towels, fell 4 7/8 to 12 5/8 after first-quarter earnings of 40 cents a share, less than the 60-cent average estimate of six analysts polled by First Call. In the second quarter, the company sees net income of 50 cents, less than the 57-cent average estimate of five analysts polled by First Call.

Very briefly:

• The U.S. Energy Department has chosen six commercial nuclear-power plants in North and South Carolina and Virginia to burn plutonium from nuclear-weapons stockpiles. It will also pay a consortium of Duke Power Co., Stone & Webster Inc. and Cogema, the French nuclear company, \$130 million to design a plant to make the fuel.

• Bank of New York Co. agreed to buy Royal Bank of Scotland PLC's trust bank for \$500 million (\$814 million), to expand its fee-based revenue.

• Rio Grande do Sul, a Brazilian province, is suspending \$257 million in investments, loans and other incentives to General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Corp., saying the money is needed for infrastructure projects. The state's previous government to lure the two automakers to the state.

• Cnet Inc., an on-line publisher, is to buy the Internet shopping service KillerApp Corp. in a stock swap valued at \$46.6 million. Cnet will issue about 500,000 common shares for 100 percent of KillerApp's stock. Cnet will record the deal as a pooling of interests for accounting purposes.

Bloomberg, NYT, Reuters, AP, WP

Edison Acquires 16 Illinois Plants

Bloomberg News

CHICAGO — Edison International Inc. agreed Tuesday to buy seven large power plants and nine smaller ones in Illinois from Unicom Corp. for \$4.8 billion in cash to gain access to the rapidly growing Midwest electricity market.

The acquisition, expected to be completed late this year, includes six coal-fired plants, a plant that can be fueled by natural gas or oil, and nine smaller units that are used only during periods of high electricity demand.

The plants, which sold for almost three times their book value, can produce 9,772 megawatts, enough power to light 9.8 million homes.

Dollar Reflects the Slump Of Securities on Wall Street

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar was little changed against other major currencies Tuesday, held back by the U.S. stock market's slump.

"The dollar is correlating with the stock market is pretty high, so the dollar is softening with it," said Kathy Jones, an analyst at Prudential Securities Inc. "People are wor-

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

ried the U.S. stock market is overvalued," with stock indexes close to record highs.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.2 percent on Tuesday.

The dollar was quoted at 4 P.M. at 118.075, down slightly from 118.115 yen.

The euro was little changed, rising to \$1.0915 from \$1.0913.

The dollar had posted stronger gains against the euro early in the session on Tuesday amid speculation that the European Central Bank would lower interest rates to keep economies in the 11-nation currency union from slowing too much.

"Considering how sluggish growth has become in the major euro economies, a quarter-point cut would be psychologically significant," in forecasting recovery, said Fernando Medina, a trader at Banco Atlantico.

But a European Central Bank council member, Matti Vanhala, said he was not certain economic

growth in the euro region would recover in the near future and said monetary policy could not do much to stimulate growth.

"I am very uncertain about the rebound in growth," Mr. Vanhala, who also governs the Bank of Finland, said at the European Banking and Finance Forum in Prague.

"Let's hope it takes place."

Meanwhile, Eisuke Sakakibara, Japan's deputy finance minister for international affairs, said the government would "take decisive action against an excessive appreciation of the yen."

Traders took the comment to hint that Japan might start buying dollars soon.

A stronger yen may curb export growth and worsen Japan's recession.

Traders and investors expect the dollar to recover after the Japanese fiscal year ends on March 31. Japanese companies bringing home overseas earnings and converting them to yen has helped bolster the currency the past several weeks.

The yen also was undermined by a decline in Japanese stocks because global investors who sell the country's equities often convert the yen proceeds to other currencies. The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index shed 2.2 percent Tuesday.

In other trading, the dollar was quoted at 1.4575 Swiss francs, down from 1.4632 francs. The pound was at \$1.6382, up from \$1.6280.

OPEC: Output Cut Agreed

Continued from Page 1

Underlying the care OPEC took in orchestrating the announcement for maximum effect, the accord that took months of secret and public talks to shape was adopted in minutes and announced in one of the shortest OPEC meetings in the cartel's 40-year history — lasting less than an hour.

"It actually took 10 minutes from the moment the resolution was proposed to the moment it was unanimously adopted," Abdullah Atiyah, the Qatar oil minister, said. "The message to world oil markets from oil producers is: solidarity, unanimity and resolve."

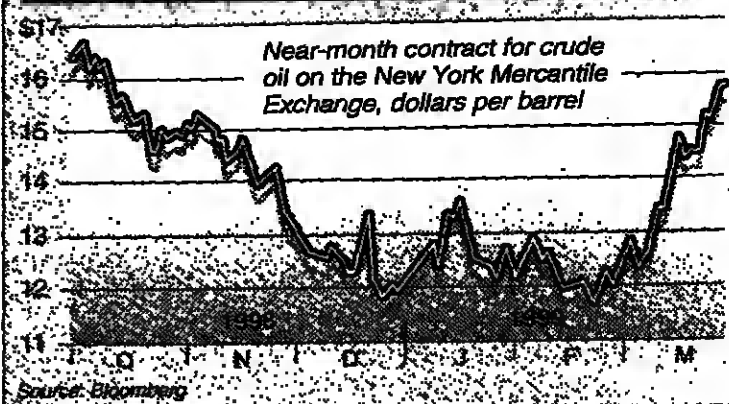
[But while oil prices have risen about 20 percent since bottoming in December, they fell back Tuesday after the agreement was announced. Light sweet crude oil for May delivery was at \$15.51, down 23 cents in 4 P.M. trading.]

OPEC oil ministers predicted the cut would push oil prices up to an average level of \$17 to \$18 a barrel from the present level of about \$13 to \$14 a barrel by this summer.

Industry analysts said the slash in production would probably cause gasoline prices to rise further by another 10 cents a gallon.

But it remains to be seen whether the discipline and resolve displayed Tuesday will last as oil prices creep up and the temptation to break ranks, pump more oil, and get more revenues can be resisted. Many members of OPEC such as Nigeria,

End of the Oil Glut?



Indonesia and Venezuela are experiencing a serious fall in revenues and budgetary deficits, putting pressure on their governments to grab any additional income that looms on the horizon from more oil sales.

There were few believers here, for example, in the sincerity of the Russian Federation's commitment to reduce its oil exports by 100,000 barrels a day, which was announced by Anatoli Yanovsky, a deputy oil minister at the OPEC gathering.

"A barrel cut by Saudi Arabia is not the same as a barrel cut by Russia," said Norihiro Ait Laoussine, the former oil minister of Algeria.

When the Saudis say they will cut, they do cut. The Russians are another matter. But on the whole, they are factored in and their declaration of solidarity may be more valuable than the 100,000 barrels a day they say they will keep out of markets. "It will

take three to four months for the accord to register its impact, but all indications Tuesday were that oil companies were receiving a stream of telexes informing them contracts to buy oil were being slashed. A senior American oil company executive observing the meeting said his company has already contracted to buy 4 million barrels of Iraqi crude to make up for a shortfall from Saudi Arabia.

The largest reduction came from Saudi Arabia, which trimmed its output by 585,000 barrels of crude a day, or 7 percent of its total production of 8 million barrels a day.

Iraq said it would not take part in the accord as it needs to pump as much oil as possible under the oil-for-food program authorized by the United Nations sanctions imposed since the Gulf war in 1990. Iraqi production stands at about 2.5 million barrels a day.

U.S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Tuesday, March 23									
Indexes					Most Actives				
Dow Jones					NYSE				
Index	High	Low	Open	Close	Index	High	Low	Open	Close
Dow Jones	5871.82	5871.82	5871.82	5871.82	Aristotle's A	300.00	179.00	111	122
S&P 500	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
Nasdaq	2022.65	2022.65	2022.65	2022.65	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
AMEX	703.32	703.32	703.32	703.32	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
TSE 100	6882.00	6882.00	6882.00	6882.00	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
Hong Kong	10416.95	10416.95	10416.95	10416.95	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
Nikkei	14522.87	14522.87	14522.87	14522.87	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
Hang Seng	4812.50	4812.50	4812.50	4812.50	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
Shanghai	4011.14	4011.14	4011.14	4011.14	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
Beijing	2856.87	2856.87	2856.87	2856.87	Charmelle	100.00	50.00	25	25
Standard & Poor's					Nasdaq				
Index	High	Low	Open	Close	Index	High	Low	Open	Close
Standard & Poor's	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	Standard & Poor's	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54
Standard & Poor's	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	Standard & Poor's	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54
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Standard & Poor's	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	Standard & Poor's	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54
Standard & Poor's	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54					

Trading Activity									
NYSE					Nasdaq				
Advanced	Open	Prev.	High	Low	Advanced	Open	Prev.	High	Low
Dow Jones	5871.82	5871.82	5871.82	5871.82	Dow Jones	2022.65	2022.65	2022.65	2022.65
S&P 500	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	1281.54	S&P 500	703.32	703.32	703.32	703.32
Nasdaq Comp.	2022.65	2022.65	2022.65	2022.65	Nasdaq Comp.	703.32	703.32	703.32	703.32
AMEX Comp.	703.32	703.32	703.32	703.32	AMEX Comp.	703.32	703.32	703.32	703.32
TSE 100	6882.00	6882.00	6882.00	6882.00	TSE 100	6882.00	6882.00	6882.00	6882.00
Hong Kong	10416.95	10416.95	10416.95	10416.95	Hong Kong	10416.95	10416.95	10416.95	10416.95
Nikkei	14522.87	14522.87	14522.87	14522.87	Nikkei	14522.87	14522.87	14522.87	14522.87
Hang Seng	4812.50	4812.50	4812.50	4812.50	Hang Seng	4812.50	4812.50	4812.50	4812.50
Shanghai	4011.14	4011.14	4011.14	4011.14	Shanghai	4011.14	4011.14	4011.14	4011.14
Beijing	2856.87	2856.87	2856.87	2856.87	Beijing	2856.87	2856.87	2856.87	2856.87

Dividends									
Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay	Company	Per Amt	Rec Pay				
Ray BkSci A	IREGULAR	0	5/313	3-31	3-31				
STOCK SPLIT									
First Comm Bkshares	2 for 1		Atwood Ind	1/4	4-22				
Mayfield Cos Bk 1 for 2 split			Bank of America	1/4	4-22				
STOCK									
Arrow-Magnolia	10%		BankAmerica Fund	1/4	4-22				
INCREASED									
Fluor Corp OH	0	89	4-4	4-15					
Lumina Capital	0	94	4-4	4-15					
REDUCED									
Imperial Credit	0	30	3-31	4-15					
INITIAL									
EPIC Bancorp		10	3-31	4-17					
West Coast N J		375	3-31	4-26					
4-26stock									
Investment Tech		4.00	4-20	4-21					

U.S. Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 25 months plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounts to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stock only. Unless otherwise noted, ranges of dividends are annual distributions based on:

- a - dividend also includes cash; b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend; c - liquidating dividend; d - PE equals 99.99; e - called; f - new yearly low; g - did in the last 12 months; h -
- dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months; i - annual rate, increased on last declaration; g - dividend in Canadian funds subject to 15% non-residence tax; j - dividend declared after split-up stock dividend; k - dividend paid this year; omitted, deferred or no action taken at latest dividend meeting; l - dividend declared or paid for this year, on accumulative issue with dividends in arrears; m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration; n - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months; o - high-low range based on the start of trading; p - next day delivery; q - initial dividend; annual rate omitted; RPE - price-earnings ratio; c - closed-end mutual fund; r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months; plus stock dividend; s - stock split; Dividend begins with date of split; s - sales; t - dividend paid in stock or preceding 12 months; estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date; u - new yearly high; v - trading halted; w - in bankruptcy or receivability or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act; or securities assumed by such companies; wd - when distributed; x - when sold; y - when sold; z - non-dividend or no rights; aa - when sold; ab - when sold; ac - when sold; ad - when sold; ae - when sold; af - when sold; ag - when sold; ah - when sold; ai - when sold; aj - when sold; ak - when sold; al - when sold; am - when sold; an - when sold; ao - when sold; ap - when sold; aq - when sold; ar - when sold; as - when sold; at - when sold; au - when sold; av - when sold; aw - when sold; ax - when sold; ay - when sold; az - when sold; ba - when sold; bb - when sold; bc - when sold; bd - when sold; be - when sold; bf - when sold; bg - when sold; bh - when sold; bi - when sold; bj - when sold; bk - when sold; bl - when sold; bm - when sold; bn - when sold; bo - when sold; bp - when sold; bq - when sold; br - when sold; bs - when sold; bt - when sold; bu - when sold; bv - when sold; bw - when sold; bx - when sold; by - when sold; bz - when sold; ca - when sold; cb - when sold; cc - when sold; cd - when sold; ce - when sold; cf - when sold; cg - when sold; ch - when sold; ci - when sold; cj - when sold; ck - when sold; cl - when sold; cm - when sold; cn - when sold; co - when sold; cp - when sold; cq - when sold; cr - when sold; cs - when sold; ct - when sold; cu - when sold; cv - when sold; cw - when sold; cx - when sold; cy - when sold; cz - when sold; da - when sold; db - when sold; dc - when sold; dd - when sold; de - when sold; df - when sold; dg - when sold; dh - when sold; di - when sold; dj - when sold; dk - when sold; dl - when sold; dm - when sold; dn - when sold; do - when sold; dp - when sold; dq - when sold; dr - when sold; ds - when sold; dt - when sold; du - when sold; dv - when sold; dw - when sold; dx - when sold; dy - when sold; dz - when sold; ea - when sold; eb - when sold; ec - when sold; ed - when sold; ee - when sold; ef - when sold; eg - when sold; eh - when sold; ei - when sold; ej - when sold; ek - when sold; el - when sold; em - when sold; en - when sold; eo - when sold; ep - when sold; eq - when sold; er - when sold; es - when sold; et - when sold; eu - when sold; ev - when sold; ew - when sold; ex - when sold; ey - when sold; ez - when sold; fa - when sold; fb - when sold; fc - when sold; fd - when sold; fe - when sold; ff - when sold; fg - when sold; fh - when sold; fi - when sold; fj - when sold; fk - when sold; fl - when sold; fm - when sold; fn - when sold; fo - when sold; fp - when sold; fq - when sold; fr - when sold; fs - when sold; ft - when sold; fu - when sold; fv - when sold; fw - when sold; fx - when sold; fy - when sold; fz - when sold; ga - when sold; gb - when sold; gc - when sold; gd - when sold; ge - when sold; gf - when sold; gh - when sold; gi - when sold; gj - when sold; gk - when sold; gl - when sold; gm - when sold; gn - when sold; go - when sold; gp - when sold; gq - when sold; gr - when sold; gs - when sold; gt - when sold; gu - when sold; gv - when sold; gw - when sold; gx - when sold; gy - when sold; gz - when sold; ha - when sold; hb - when sold; hc - when sold; hd - when sold; he - when sold; hf - when sold; hg - when sold; hh - when sold; hi - when sold; hj - when sold; hk - when sold; hl - when sold; hm - when sold; hn - when sold; ho - when sold; hp - when sold; hq - when sold; hr - when sold; hs - when sold; ht - when sold; hu - when sold; hv - when sold; hw - when sold; hx - when sold; hy - when sold; hz - when sold; ia - when sold; ib - when sold; ic - when sold; id - when sold; ie - when sold; if - when sold; ig - when sold; ih - when sold; ii - when sold; ij - when sold; ik - when sold; il - when sold; im - when sold; in - when sold; io - when sold; ip - when sold; iq - when sold; ir - when sold; is - when sold; it - when sold; iu - when sold; iv - when sold; iw - when sold; ix - when sold; iy - when sold; iz - when sold; ja - when sold; jb - when sold; jc - when sold; jd - when sold; je - when sold; jf - when sold; jg - when sold; jh - when sold; ji - when sold; jj - when sold; jk - when sold; jl - when sold; jm - when sold; jn - when sold; jo - when sold; jp - when sold; jq - when sold; jr - when sold; js - when sold; jt - when sold; ju - when sold; jv - when sold; jw - when sold; jx - when sold; jy - when sold; jz - when sold; ka - when sold; kb - when sold; kc - when sold; kd - when sold; ke - when sold; kf - when sold; kg - when sold; kh - when sold; ki - when sold; kj - when sold; kl - when sold; km - when sold; kn - when sold; ko - when sold; kp - when sold; kq - when sold; kr - when sold; ks - when sold; kt - when sold; ku - when sold; kv - when sold; kw - when sold; kx - when sold; ky - when sold; kz - when sold; la - when sold; lb - when sold; lc - when sold; ld - when sold; le - when sold; lf - when sold; lg - when sold; lh - when sold; li - when sold; lj - when sold; lk - when sold; ll - when sold; lm - when sold; ln - when sold; lo - when sold; lp - when sold; lq - when sold; lr - when sold; ls - when sold; lt - when sold; lu - when sold; lv - when sold; lw - when sold; lx - when sold; ly - when sold; lz - when sold; ma - when sold; mb - when sold; mc - when sold; md - when sold; me - when sold; mf - when sold; mg - when sold; mh - when sold; mi - when sold; mj - when sold; mk - when sold; ml - when sold; mm - when sold; mn - when sold; mo - when sold; mp - when sold; mq - when sold; mr - when sold; ms - when sold; mt - when sold; mu - when sold; mv - when sold; mw - when sold; mx - when sold; my - when sold; mz - when sold; na - when sold; nb - when sold; nc - when sold; nd - when sold; ne - when sold; nf - when sold; ng - when sold; nh - when sold; ni - when sold; nj - when sold; nk - when sold; nl - when sold; nm - when sold; nn - when sold; no - when sold; np - when sold; nq - when sold; nr - when sold; ns - when sold; nt - when sold; nu - when sold; nv - when sold; nw - when sold; nx - when sold; ny - when sold; nz - when sold; oa - when sold; ob - when sold; oc - when sold; od - when sold; oe - when sold; of - when sold; og - when sold; oh - when sold; oi - when sold; oj - when sold; ok - when sold; ol - when sold; om - when sold; on - when sold; oo - when sold; op - when sold; oq - when sold; or - when sold; os - when sold; ot - when sold; ou - when sold; ov - when sold; ow - when sold; ox - when sold; oy - when sold; oz - when sold; pa - when sold; pb - when sold; pc - when sold; pd - when sold; pe - when sold; pf - when sold; pg - when sold; ph - when sold; pi - when sold; pj - when sold; pk - when sold; pl - when sold; pm - when sold; pn - when sold; po - when sold; pp - when sold; pq - when sold; pr - when sold; ps - when sold; pt - when sold; pu - when sold; pv - when sold; pw - when sold; px - when sold; py - when sold; pz - when sold; qa - when sold; qb - when sold; qc - when sold; qd - when sold; qe - when sold; qf - when sold; qg - when sold; qh - when sold; qi - when sold; qj - when sold; qk - when sold; ql - when sold; qm - when sold; qn - when sold; qo - when sold; qp - when sold; qq - when sold; qr - when sold; qs - when sold; qt - when sold; qu - when sold; qv - when sold; qw - when sold; qx - when sold; qy - when sold; qz - when sold; ra - when sold; rb - when sold; rc - when sold; rd - when sold; re - when sold; rf - when sold; rg - when sold; rh - when sold; ri - when sold; rj - when sold; rk - when sold; rl - when sold; rm - when sold; rn - when sold; ro - when sold; rp - when sold; rq - when sold; rr - when sold; rs - when sold; rt - when sold; ru - when sold; rv - when sold; rw - when sold; rx - when sold; ry - when sold; rz - when sold; sa - when sold; sb - when sold; sc - when sold; sd - when sold; se - when sold; sf - when sold; sg - when sold; sh - when sold; si - when sold; sj - when sold; sk - when sold; sl - when sold; sm - when sold; sn - when sold; so - when sold; sp - when sold; sq - when sold; sr - when sold; ss - when sold; st - when sold; su - when sold; sv - when sold; sw - when sold; sx - when sold; sy - when sold; sz - when sold; ta - when sold; tb - when sold; tc - when sold; td - when sold; te - when sold; tf - when sold; tg - when sold; th - when sold; ti - when sold; tj - when sold; tk - when sold; tl - when sold; tm - when sold; tn - when sold; to - when sold; tp - when sold; tq - when sold; tr - when sold; ts - when sold; tt - when sold; tu - when sold; tv - when sold; tw - when sold; tx - when sold; ty - when sold; tz - when sold; ua - when sold; ub - when sold; uc - when sold; ud - when sold; ue - when sold; uf - when sold; ug - when sold; uh - when sold; ui - when sold; uj - when sold; uk - when sold; ul - when sold; um - when sold; un - when sold; uo - when sold; up - when sold; uq - when sold; ur - when sold; us - when sold; ut - when sold; uu - when sold; uv - when sold; uw - when sold; ux - when sold; uy - when sold; uz - when sold; va - when sold; vb - when sold; vc - when sold; vd - when sold; ve - when sold; vf - when sold; vg - when sold; vh - when sold; vi - when sold; vj - when sold; vk - when sold; vl - when sold; vm - when sold; vn - when sold; vo - when sold; vp - when sold; vq - when sold; vr - when sold; vs - when sold; vt - when sold; vu - when sold; vv - when sold; vw - when sold; vx - when sold; vy - when sold; vz - when sold; wa - when sold; wb - when sold; wc - when sold; wd - when sold; we - when sold; wf - when sold; wg - when sold; wh - when sold; wi - when sold; wj - when sold; wk - when sold; wl - when sold; wm - when sold; wn - when sold; wo - when sold; wp - when sold; wq - when sold; wr - when sold; ws - when sold; wt - when sold; wu - when sold; wv - when sold; ww - when sold; wx - when sold; wy - when sold; wz - when sold; xa - when sold; xb - when sold; xc - when sold; xd - when sold; xe - when sold; xf - when sold; xg - when sold; xh - when sold; xi - when sold; xj - when sold; xk - when sold; xl - when sold; xm - when sold; xn - when sold; xo - when sold; xp - when sold; xq - when sold; xr - when sold; xs - when sold; xt - when sold; xu - when sold; xv - when sold; xw - when sold; xx - when sold; xy - when sold; xz - when sold; ya - when sold; yb - when sold; yc - when sold; yd - when sold; ye - when sold; yf - when sold; yg - when sold; yh - when sold; yi - when sold; yj - when sold; yk - when sold; yl - when sold; ym - when sold; yn - when sold; yo - when sold; yp - when sold; yq - when sold; yr - when sold; ys - when sold; yt - when sold; yu - when sold; yv - when sold; yw - when sold; yx - when sold; yy - when sold; yz - when sold; za - when sold; zb - when sold; zc - when sold; zd - when sold; ze - when sold; zf - when sold; zg - when sold; zh - when sold; zi - when sold; zj - when sold; zk - when sold; zl - when sold; zm - when sold; zn - when sold; zo - when sold; zp - when sold; zq - when sold; zr - when sold; zs - when sold; zt - when sold; zu - when sold; zv - when sold; zw - when sold; zx - when sold; zy - when sold; zz - when sold;

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

High Low Lastest Close Opnt					High Low Lastest Close Opnt					High Low Lastest Close Opnt				
EURO CURRENCY (CME)														
Mar 99 95.04 95.00 95.00 +0.01 1032					Sep 99 95.04 95.00 95.00 +0.01 1032					Sep 99 95.04 95.00 95.00 +0.01 1032				
Est. sales N.A. Mar's sales 2.14					Est. sales N.A. Mar's sales 2.14					Est. sales N.A. Mar's sales 2.14				
Mar's open 121 264.4					Mar's open 121 264.4					Mar's open 121 264.4				
EURODOLLARS (CME)														
Mar 99 94.99 94.97 94.99 +0.01 3129					Sep 99 94.99 94.97 94.99 +0.01 3129					Sep 99 94.99 94.97 94.99 +0.01 3129				
Est. sales N.A. Mar's sales 2.14					Est. sales N.A. Mar's sales 2.14					Est. sales N.A. Mar's sales 2.14				
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Microsoft Aims to Settle, But Others Have Doubts

WASHINGTON — Microsoft Corp. intends to approach the Justice Department and 19 states in the next few weeks with an offer to settle the antitrust suit that they have brought against the company.

But some lawyers involved in the case say a settlement is highly unlikely because the two sides remain far apart on key issues and both sides feel confident that they would prevail in court.

Microsoft executives indicated Monday that they would be willing to amend their contracts with Internet companies and provide personal-computer makers with additional flexibility to modify the company's Windows operating system.

We've always said we're willing to work with the government to address a wide range of their concerns," a Microsoft executive said, "so long as we can maintain our fundamental right to innovate and add new features in our products."

But the executive said Microsoft would not agree to any restrictions on what it could include in Windows. A key contention in the lawsuit is that

Tuesday 3-4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Lot	Label	Qty
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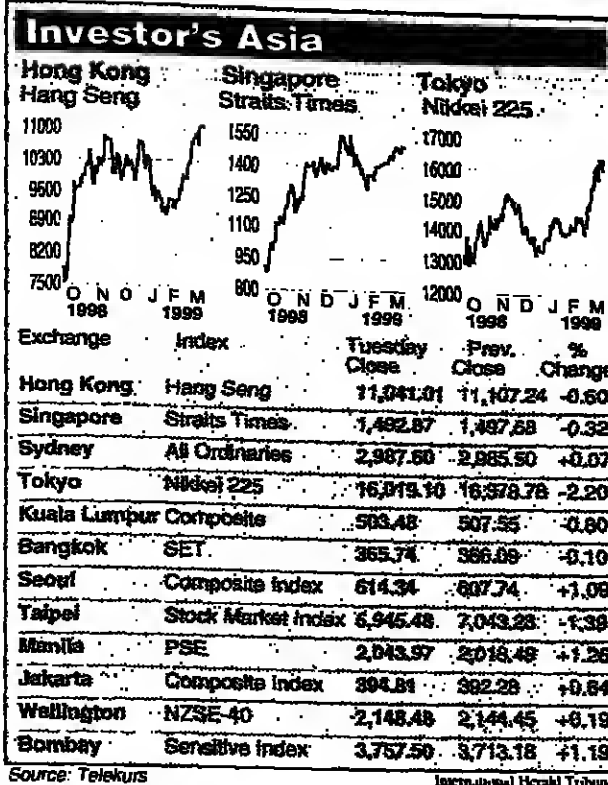
Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

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Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

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ASIA/PACIFIC



Malaysia's Currency Controls Earn Praise at Home

KUALA LUMPUR — For Lee Wai Kit, Malaysia's move to fix its currency was the start of better sleep at night.

Before the ringgit was pegged at 3.80 to the dollar on Sept. 2, importers used its wild swings as an excuse to raise prices on overseas parts by as much as 10 percent in two weeks, the 29-year-old seller of alarm systems said.

"Now," Mr. Lee said, "I know what I'm dealing with."

The controls trapped an estimated \$18 billion of stock and bond investments and in the eyes of some portfolio managers turned Malaysia into an international pariah.

Six months later, though, some companies, from the power utility Tenaga Nasional Bhd. to the French hypermarket operator Carrefour SA, are seeing a silver lining.

While it may be too early to say whether the bold experiment is a success, the controls are giving corporate Malaysia some relief as the country moves to clean up bad debt and pull out of the deepest recession in its 42-year history.

The controls earned Malaysia a hailstorm of criticism. Doomsayers said the moves would gum up trade, create a black market or simply force the government to bail out politically connected businesses.

Some even predicted the fall of Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad, who blamed Asia's financial turmoil on currency traders and hedge funds.

So far, there is no evidence that any of this has happened.

Chiang Yao Chye, an economist at Canadian Imperial Bank of Com-

merce in Singapore, said, "The worst fears about Malaysia haven't materialized — fears that they are closing themselves in and rescuing politically linked companies and banks."

Still, foreign stock investors are not yet clamoring to get back in, and many other Southeast Asian countries have been able to lower interest rates and stabilize their currencies without shutting their doors to foreigners.

Last week, Moody's Investors Service Inc. warned that the controls could still trigger a balance-of-payments problem as they hurt Malaysia's access to capital.

But the controls, which banned ringgit trading offshore, have helped Malaysia drive interest rates below the levels they were at when the currency turmoil began in July 1997 without sending capital fleeing or the currency tumbling. Rules on repatriation of stock and bond investments were softened last month with the introduction of a graduated exit tax.

Lower interest rates have helped companies struggling under mountains of foreign-currency debt.

Tenaga Nasional Bhd., which accounts for 9.1 percent of the benchmark stock index, expects to return to profitability this year. The ringgit's tumble to as low as 4.80 to the dollar last year helped saddle the company with losses as the utility's debt bill swelled in ringgit terms.

Tenaga shares have more than doubled to 5.70 ringgit Tuesday from their record low of 2.08 ringgit on Sept. 1, the day before the currency was fixed.

For Carrefour, which operates five large supermarkets in Malaysia,

Singapore Airlines Deal

SYDNEY — Singapore Airlines Ltd. is set to buy News Ltd.'s half stake in Ansett Australia in a deal worth about 500 million Australian dollars (\$314 million), airline sources said Tuesday.

News Ltd., the Australian arm of News Corp., is expected to announce the sale Thursday. Rupert Murdoch, the News Corp. chairman, is believed to have been eager to sell the stake in Ansett since Air New Zealand bought the other half from the Australian transport giant TNT Ltd. for 475 million dollars two years ago.

The News Ltd. chief executive, Lachlan Murdoch; Rod Eddington, Ansett chairman, and the Singapore Airlines chief executive, Cheong Choong Kong, met with Prime Minister John Howard and other ministers Monday to discuss the proposed sale. Mr. Howard made clear Tuesday that he had no objection to the sale, although it had to meet foreign investment laws.

The change in ownership would provide a massive boost for Ansett, which under News Corp. had been unable to secure desperately needed capital to compete successfully against Qantas Airways, the dominant Australian carrier. It also would allow Singapore Airlines, which has been a suitor of Ansett for the past two years, to gain entry into the profitable Australian domestic market.

Ansett has struggled to turn a profit and maintain its 45 percent domestic market share. Analysts say it needs a massive cash injection in complete effect, something which Singapore Airlines could provide.

Daewoo Pact With Samsung

SEOUL — Samsung Group and Daewoo Group said Tuesday that they had struck an accord on the key terms of Daewoo's long-delayed takeover of the fledgling Samsung Motors Inc.

It everything goes as planned, Daewoo would be able to take control of the management of Samsung Motors in May, Daewoo executives said.

Analysts said the deal would add to pressure on two other major groups — Hyundai Group and LG Group — to hurry the delayed merger of their semiconductor units, which would create the world's leading memory chipmaker.

The takeover burden would also worsen the financial health of Daewoo, South Korea's third-largest business conglomerate, which has been dogged by persistent rumors of financial problems, the analysts said.

The accord between Samsung and Daewoo to combine their automakers was originally agreed under government pressure last September, but the deal has since been bogged down in disputes over the details.

The key arguments have been over the sharing of losses to be generated by continuing to operate Samsung Motors and whether and how long Daewoo would maintain the production of Samsung's only model, the SM5 sedan.

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Very briefly:

- China's aviation regulator has cut an annual levy from 8 percent of domestic-route revenue to 5 percent to help domestic airlines climb back into the black in 1999.
- Vietnam has had the outlook for its B1 rating on foreign debt and bonds downgraded from stable to negative by Moody's Investors Service Inc., the U.S. ratings agency, because of a lack of progress in structural reforms. However, the stable outlook for Vietnam's B3 rating on foreign currency bank deposits has been maintained.
- Hong Kong's retail sales in January fell to 15.7 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$2.03 billion), down 21 percent in value from a year ago, as the recession continued to hit consumer spending.
- San Miguel Corp.'s Chairman Eduardo Cojuangco asked a Philippine court to declare him the rightful owner of a 20 percent block of shares in the food and beverage company. The government had requested 47 percent of San Miguel after the ouster of President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 amid allegations the shares were purchased with ill-gotten wealth.
- Taiwan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 2.7 percent in February from 2.97 percent in January and a 13-year high of 3.08 percent in December as economic growth offset a rise in joblessness.
- Sanwa Bank Ltd. will lose 300 billion yen (\$2.54 billion) in the year ending March 31, 20 percent more than it had previously forecast, as new government rules require banks to set aside more money to cover problem loans.
- Malaysia's vehicle sales rose 15 percent in February from a month ago, the fourth rise in five months, as consumers bet that interest rates will remain low.
- BASF AG, the German chemical company, will forge ahead with expansion plans in Asia despite a 10-percent tumble in regional sales in 1998 due to the economic slowdown.
- China appears ready to bow to strong U.S. trade pressure and embrace a cellular telecommunications standard worth billions of dollars to U.S. companies such as Motorola Corp. and Lucent Technologies Inc.

Bangkok to Increase Spending

BANGKOK — Thailand, reeling from its worst recession in a generation, said Tuesday it would pump at least \$3 billion (51.4 billion) into the economy through increased government spending and possibly twice that amount from tax cuts.

In its latest agreement with the International Monetary Fund, Thailand said it would increase its 1999 budget deficit to 6 percent of gross domestic product from 5 percent and reduce consumer-oriented taxes. It said it would announce details of the tax cuts next Tuesday.

Thailand's quarterly letter to the IMF, which is providing \$17.2 billion in aid, predicted that the country's gross domestic product would grow 1 percent in the year ending in September after contracting 8 percent in the previous year. It also said Thailand had made significant progress toward recovery.

"Reflecting the supportive stance of monetary and fiscal policies, output has stabilized in large parts of the economy, inflation has fallen sharply, and the external position has strengthened further," the government said.

JAGUAR: Long-Term Investment Now Bringing Payoff for Ford

Continued from Page 13

said. The results have been little short of revolutionary. Jaguar, which in 1991 ranked 35th out of 36 in J.D. Power & Associates' quality survey, last year ranked in the top five, along with Lexus, Infiniti, BMW and Acura. Sales have surged in step with quality.

Now comes the hard part: preserving quality and brand exclusivity while introducing new models and embarking on an unprecedented step-up of production.

Jaguar hopes to quadruple sales to 200,000 a year within four years. That is modest compared with BMW's sales of 700,000 and Mercedes' 900,000 last year, but is still an ambitious target for a company that took a decade to exceed its 1988 sales peak of 49,495.

The S-type is a critical first step, taking Jaguar out of the rarefied top end of the luxury category into the heart of the market. The new model will compete with the BMW 5 series and the Mercedes-Benz E class. It has a base price of \$42,500 for the 3.0-liter V6 version and \$48,000 for the 4.0-liter V8.

"Jaguar now has a more sustainable business model for the luxury car business, one that does not depend on a \$60,000 entry-level model," said Nicholas

Colas, automotive analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston in New York. "You really do need an entire product range to be competitive."

The S-type aims to marry Jaguar tradition with sophisticated new features like a voice-activated, climate-control and audio system. It sports the brand's famous sleek curves, wood paneling and leather trim, and its elliptical front grill revives the look of Jaguar's 1960s S-type.

With its smaller size and price tag and easier handling, the S-type is designed to appeal to younger drivers and women — a vital market for a brand that sells mainly to males in their 50's today.

Early reviews in the automotive press have been positive, and the company has already taken 18,000 orders, or half of this year's planned production. But Jaguar will need to prove that its newfound quality extends to the S-type.

"Typically, new-model launches are a struggle," said Chance Parker, director of product research at J.D. Power. "Let's face it, Jaguar is not in the habit of doing many new product launches."

The S-type also is a limited competitor, with no station-wagon version to match the BMW 5 series or the Mercedes-Benz E class, and fewer engine options — most important, no diesel.

That is a big disadvantage in many European countries and leaves Jaguar particularly dependent on the U.S. market, which generates 40 percent of sales.

Diesel remains "a big open question," Mr. Scheele acknowledged, but he said any decision on model and engine variations was still a few years off.

An even bigger challenge lies ahead with the planned launch of a so-called baby Jag, dubbed the X400, in the year 2001.

This entry-level model will compete with the BMW 3 series and the Mercedes-Benz C class, and Jaguar hopes to sell as many as 100,000 a year at a price starting around £20,000.

But the company is going outside its base in the British Midlands to build the car at Ford's Halewood plant in Liverpool, which currently churns out Escorts. Getting that plant up to premium quality standards is "a real test for management," said Colin Couchman, an analyst at Standard & Poor's DRI global automotive group.

Jaguar admits the challenge. "We have recognized we have to do something fairly dramatic," Mr. Scheele said.

"We are going to get there, and we're not going to produce a Jaguar until we get there."



LAFARGE: A sharp rise in income in 1998

World leader in construction materials, the Lafarge Group holds top-ranking positions in each of its divisions: Cement, Aggregates & Concrete, Roofing, Gypsum and Specialty Products.

Active in 65 countries, Lafarge employs 65,500 people, generating sales of 9.8 billion euros (643 billion francs). Through its commitment to the development of materials and the advancement of the construction industry, Lafarge brings greater safety, comfort and aesthetic appeal to our everyday lives.

The Board of Directors of Lafarge met on Tuesday, March 9, 1999 under the chairmanship of Bertrand COLLOMBE, to close the accounts for the 1998 financial year.

Sales rose by 53% in 1998 to FRF 64.3 billion (9,802 million euros), particularly as a result of the integration of Redland operations

Net operating income stood at FRF 9,164 million, or 1,397 million euros, an increase of 63%. This improvement, which was felt in all the Group's business areas, chiefly reflects:

- a higher level of business in Western Europe (except for Germany) and Latin America,
- an excellent economic climate in North America,
- a favorable context for prices.

Net income, Group share totaled FRF 3,059 million (466 million euros), a rise of 26%. Net earnings per share were up 19% at FRF 32.30, or 4.93 euros.

At the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders on May 27, an increase in dividend from FRF 11 to FRF 12 (1.83 euros) per share (to which the French tax credit should be added) will be proposed. Shareholders will have the right to take their dividend in cash or in the form of shares.

For the first time, shareholders who have retained registered shares for two years will be entitled to have their dividend raised by 10%.

SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION OF REDLAND

Apart from the strong operating results it posted, another highlight of the year for Lafarge was the successful integration of Redland (FRF 20 billion, or 3 billion euros, of sales, over 18,000 employees) in a period of six months. The Group determined strategies and action programs and put Lafarge organizations and policies into place.

As forecast, the acquisition of Redland has already created a highly positive impact on Group results

PROMISING STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

Looking beyond Redland, Lafarge continued to strengthen its worldwide positions in 1998 taking advantage of the Asian crisis in particular. The Group was able to seize new opportunities for development, carrying out about FRF 12.2 billion (1.9 billion euros) of investments throughout the financial year.

In each of its divisions, Lafarge reinforced its positions:

- **Cement:** acquisitions in Honduras, South Africa and the Philippines, interests purchased in Italy, the United States and Jordan, and acquisition of several industrial assets in Germany.
- **Aggregates & Concrete:** acquisitions in North America and South Africa, joint-venture agreement in China.
- **Roofing:** purchase of minority interests in Brazil, South Africa and Malaysia.
- **Gypsum:** acquisitions in South Korea, where Lafarge has become leader on the gypsum wallboard market.
- **Specialty Products:** in the United States, developments in lime and in the road marking sector.

PROSPECTS FOR 1999

In spite of the uncertainties affecting the global financial and economic situation, 1999 has begun auspiciously. Trends are positive in Europe and North America, where three-quarters of the Group's business is located.

Following the substantial developments occurring in 1998, the Group (which has now implemented a new organization with five divisions: Cement, Aggregates & Concrete, Roofing, Gypsum and Specialty Products) will concentrate on integrating its acquisitions, lowering its costs and boosting its performance.

Chairman and Chief Executive Bertrand COLLOMBE commented: "1998 was a very good year for Lafarge and 1999 should prove to be another year of progress."



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INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

Greece's Stock Market Is Looking Up

Prospect of Joining the Euro Helps Make Athens a Hot Performer

ATHENS — If the breeze is just right, the gamy smell from the open meat market wafts over the main doors of the Athens stock exchange.

"I love it. It puts me in the mood: blood and guts," said Aris Makrogiannis, pausing just for a moment at the market's crimson facade before racing to the gallery for a good seat.

Armed with a calculator and small binoculars, the 45-year-old shop owner is a new recruit in the army of investors laying siege to the exchange — currently Europe's hottest trading floor and the world's No. 2 performer last year in terms of percentage increase: about 85 percent, slightly behind South Korea.

Each business day, the small section for visitors fills up. Private investors hit their nails, scribble on pads and peer through binoculars as they watch the trading board and the general index ticker, flanked by images of the goddess Athena and the sea king Poseidon.

Most often these days, investors end up counting their gains rather than bemoaning their losses. The main market index has hit 22 record highs this year, most recently on Friday.

"Everyone is trying to cash in," said Peter Spatalis, a stockbroker.

Greece's booming market, oddly, was

born out of fiscal clatter.

Chronic inflation, crushing public debt and other economic troubles kept Greece from joining the 11 countries that started the European Union's single currency, the euro, this year.

But Prime Minister Costas Simitis has so far managed to stay focused on the drive to meet EU standards and enter the euro group by 2001. Inflation has nosedived. Interest rates have been cut. Plans have advanced to sell off unprofitable state companies. A flurry of mergers and acquisitions is being discussed.

Greece, once the economic backwater of the EU, has earned applause from influential observers, including Moody's Investors Service Inc. And the stock market — especially the banking sector — sprang to life last year.

For investors, it is a prime chance to catch a ride on an EU economy apparently chugging toward the single-currency zone. Similar bull markets occurred in Italy and Spain as they made their euro transformations.

But the feeding-frenzy atmosphere is more pronounced in smaller and poorer Greece.

Nearly 1 million Greeks — about one-tenth of the population — are believed to own shares. A decade ago, investing in the market was virtually unknown out-

side an elite circle. More than 100 companies are awaiting regulatory approval to join the nearly 300 listed firms.

"I don't see this market cooling off for a while," said Mr. Spatalis.

The optimism is so high that some people have taken out consumer bank loans at about 20 percent to buy stocks.

"It is sheer madness," warned an editorial in the respected Kathimerini newspaper.

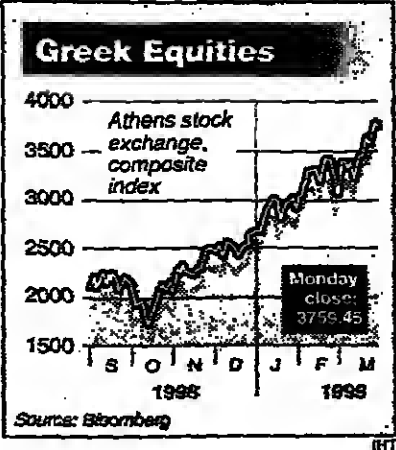
Faith in the market can also lead to foolish moves, analysts say. Some small investors may throw their money at any company expecting sizable returns.

"There are many, many unsophisticated investors racing to get into this market," said Chris Elefros, an analyst at Telesis Securities in Athens.

"These people may not be as prudent and may unwittingly take some unwise risks."

There have admittedly been humps along the way, but the Greek stock market has been quite resilient on its upward climb.

It fell more than 7.5 percent in one day last month during the political upheaval after Turkey's arrest of the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, who had been secretly sheltered by Greek officials in Kenya, but it regained almost all of that



loss the following day.

And while the benchmark index was down 3.24 percent in afternoon trading Tuesday, it has gained 33 percent so far this year.

"This market will go down, and some of the investors will be scared," said Petros Katsoulas, an emerging-market specialist at Credit Suisse First Boston in London.

"It can't keep up like this forever. It's the law of physics."

"That would be a positive thing," he added, referring to a market decline.

Some analysts say the Greek stock market may eventually mature and take on what some call an Italian character, meaning that political developments do not necessarily shake up investors.

SEC Makes Modest Start On Mutual-Fund Reform

By Richard A. Oppel Jr.
New York Times Staff Writer

NEW YORK — Arthur Levitt Jr., chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, has proposed strengthening the supervision of mutual funds by independent directors but stopped short of offering the more sweeping changes that he had considered.

Under Mr. Levitt's proposal, a majority of mutual-fund directors, instead of the present 40 percent, would have to be independent of the firm managing the fund, and independent directors would nominate their replacements.

Mr. Levitt noted, however, that many funds already have boards on which three-quarters of the members are independent directors or already have self-nominating independent directors.

He also proposed that outside lawyers and auditors for fund boards be independent of the fund-management company and that funds be required to disclose more information about directors, such as any relationships they have with the fund's investment adviser and how much money they have in the fund.

"While these initial measures would be the most significant changes in a generation, this is just the beginning," Mr. Levitt said, adding that SEC officials would examine other issues in the next few months.

The speech is that he chose to make it, that he wanted to follow up on the roundtable conference a month ago and continue to signal that in his mind this is, and should be, an important item on the SEC's agenda.

The agency's push to improve mutual-fund governance comes after several tumultuous years for fund directors, who have occasionally found themselves the targets of shareholder lawsuits and nasty proxy fights after tangling with fund managers. In fact, Mr. Levitt now says that the SEC, which had been sharply criticized for not aiding embattled fund directors in some cases, will "continue to look for opportunities to support independent directors where appropriate."

Mutual-fund industry officials declined to say whether they would endorse the proposals made Monday.

"The ideas Levitt put forth are certainly worth looking at, but to commit to them, we'll have to see exactly the form in which they are proposed," said Matthew Fink, president of the Investment Company Institute, an industry trade group.

The institute also said it had formed its own six-member advisory group to study ways to improve fund governance. The group, which includes fund-company executives and independent fund directors but no one unaffiliated with a fund company, could report suggested changes by this summer.

The group is also likely to examine closely other suggestions that Mr. Levitt made: encouraging separate insurance coverage for directors and fund managers in case one sues the other; increasing scrutiny over such practices as the directing of trades to a brokerage firm that in return gives valuable equipment or services that do not necessarily benefit fund shareholders; and increasing disclosure to shareholders of funds' tax-adjusted returns.

"Those are the right issues," said Robert Denham, a former chief executive of what was then Salomon Inc. and now a prominent Los Angeles lawyer. In particular, he said, disclosing tax-adjusted returns was "necessary for investors to be able to make informed judgments about whether particular funds are appropriate for taxable accounts."

Hong Kong Mortgage-Rate Cuts Test Small Banks

HONG KONG — The local banking arm of American Express Co. has cut its rate on mortgages to below the prime rate, the first time such lending has dropped below this benchmark in Hong Kong, and other banks are expected to follow suit.

The resulting mortgage price war is likely to put further pressure on small banks, already hit hard by the Asian economic crisis, analysts say.

Mortgage rates were 25 basis points, or a quarter of a percentage point, above the prime rate a few months ago and more than 100 basis points above the prime rate in 1996.

On average, mortgage lending accounts for more than 35 percent of loans among local banks, with some devoting more than half of their lending to home loans, because these tend to have extremely low default rates even when property prices drop significantly.

Now, banks are trying to raise their mortgage-lending exposure even further as they search for ways to expand their loan books after dismal 1998 results.

Hong Kong banks reported putting aside five times as much in provisions for bad debt last year as in 1997 because of concern about spiraling bad loans due to the Asian financial crisis and China's slowing economy. Hong Kong's gross

domestic product shrank 5.7 percent in December 1998 from the year-earlier month, and unemployment has shot up to a record 6 percent.

Before July 1997 and the onset of the Asian financial crisis, the larger banks in Hong Kong used to set mortgage rates, and other lenders in the city mostly fell in line.

Analysts say competition in mortgages began to heat up in mid-1997, when foreign banks shook up the market. With a lower cost of funds than local banks, they could offer lower rates.

Now, competition has reached fever pitch. Analysts say a price war will hurt all the banks, both large and small, as it

becomes less profitable to extend mortgages. But even the most bearish analysts say all the banks in Hong Kong are well capitalized and none are at risk of insolvency.

Still, analysts say large banks have economies of scale, which will make it more difficult for small banks to compete over the long term. That could force some to find merger partners.

Anthony Luk, a bank analyst with Nomura International Hong Kong Ltd., said: "What's going on now with banks is not a cyclical downturn. It's a structural change that, in three years' time, will force consolidation."

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115 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	120 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	125 BOND FUND	12.71	130 BOND FUND	12.71	135 BOND FUND	12.71	140 BOND FUND	12.71
116 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	121 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	126 BOND FUND	12.71	131 BOND FUND	12.71	136 BOND FUND	12.71	141 BOND FUND	12.71
117 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	122 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	127 BOND FUND	12.71	132 BOND FUND	12.71	137 BOND FUND	12.71	142 BOND FUND	12.71
118 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	123 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	128 BOND FUND	12.71	133 BOND FUND	12.71	138 BOND FUND	12.71	143 BOND FUND	12.71
119 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	124 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	129 BOND FUND	12.71	134 BOND FUND	12.71	139 BOND FUND	12.71	144 BOND FUND	12.71
120 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	125 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	130 BOND FUND	12.71	135 BOND FUND	12.71	140 BOND FUND	12.71	145 BOND FUND	12.71
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122 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	127 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	132 BOND FUND	12.71	137 BOND FUND	12.71	142 BOND FUND	12.71	147 BOND FUND	12.71
123 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	128 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	133 BOND FUND	12.71	138 BOND FUND	12.71	143 BOND FUND	12.71	148 BOND FUND	12.71
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192 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	197 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	202 BOND FUND	12.71	207 BOND FUND	12.71	212 BOND FUND	12.71	217 BOND FUND	12.71
193 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	198 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	203 BOND FUND	12.71	208 BOND FUND	12.71	213 BOND FUND	12.71	218 BOND FUND	12.71
194 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	199 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	204 BOND FUND	12.71	209 BOND FUND	12.71	214 BOND FUND	12.71	219 BOND FUND	12.71
195 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	200 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	205 BOND FUND	12.71	210 BOND FUND	12.71	215 BOND FUND	12.71	220 BOND FUND	12.71
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197 MERILL LYNCH ASSET MGMT. PTF.	7.44	202 NORTH STAR FUND MANAGEMENT	12.71	207 BOND FUND	12.71	212 BOND FUND	12.71	217 BOND FUND	12.71	222 BOND FUND	12.71
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WORLD ROUNDUP

Sampras Defeated

TENNIS One day after reclaiming the No. 1 ranking, Pete Sampras lost Tuesday to Richard Krajicek in the quarterfinals of the Lipton Championships, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6). Sampras regained the No. 1 ranking he relinquished last week by winning Monday while Carlos Moya lost. Despite Sampras' loss in Key Biscayne, Florida, next week will be his 263rd week on top, seven shy of Ivan Lendl's career record.

Steffi Graf extended her winning streak at Lipton to 21 consecutive matches by beating Natasha Zvereva 6-2, 6-4 in the fourth round. Zvereva double-faulted on match point.

Antic Rehired as Coach

SOCCER Raddy Antic is returning to coach Atletico Madrid, the team said Tuesday. Antic will take over from Carlos Sanchez Aguiar. Aguiar, an interim replacement for Arrigo Sacchi who was fired in February, resigned after Atletico lost 2-0, Sunday to Alaves. Antic led Atletico to the first Spanish league and cup double in its history in 1996. He was fired in 1997.

Oldest Swim Record Falls

SWIMMING Grant Hackert broke the oldest world record in men's swimming, the 200-meter freestyle, Tuesday when he swam the first leg of the 200 meters relay in 1 minute 46.67 seconds at the Australian national championships in Brisbane. Hackert broke the record of 1:46.69 set by Giorgio Lamberti, an Italian, in Bonn in 1989.

Gretzky Returns in Vain

HOCKEY Wayne Gretzky, the New York Ranger center, returned from a neck injury sooner than expected, but his team still lost. Gretzky was held scoreless without a shot in 15 shifts on Monday in the Rangers' 6-3 loss to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

In Toronto, Dave Babych and Dan McGillis scored 41 seconds apart in the second period as Philadelphia beat the Maple Leafs, 3-1. It was the Flyers' second straight victory without coach Roger Neilson, who is suspended.

Tennis Gives Its Rankings A New Shine

No One Will Be No. 1 Until the End of the Year

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

It was a remarkably brief reign for Carlos Moya, the first Spanish man to become No. 1 in the tennis world. He officially scaled the computer rankings on March 15 and explained how fulfilling it was to "be the king," but just a week later, Sebastian Grosjean, a young

IN THE ARENA

Frenchman, ensured that Moya will be dethroned next Monday by beating the Majorcan, 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (11-9), in the fourth round in Key Biscayne, Florida.

Moya's successor? The same lean and perhaps no-longer-so-hungry American who was his predecessor: Pete Sampras. But with the claycourt season looming, Sampras may not hold his virtual lead for long over Moya or Yevgeni Kafelnikov, who came within one victory of reaching No. 1 late last month.

While renewal is healthy for sports, too much transition is confusing, and the disorder at the top of the men's game is an excellent argument for the ranking system that will be put in place next year.

The existing method ranks players on their best 14 performances over the previous 52 weeks. Since only the best results count, players do not pay a high enough price for losing in the early rounds. The new system will create a yearlong race, and though there will be changes at the top of the standings, the only man who will have the right to claim No. 1 status will be the man who leads after the last ball has been struck in December. Everybody will start from scratch in January.

This will effectively imitate the system that works well for Formula One, although not every event will be worth the same number of points in tennis. In tennis, where there is little to choose between the top men, the change will also keep the No. 1 ranking from losing much of its cache (how meaningful would it be, for example, to become the fifth or sixth different No. 1 in a given year?).

Though 15 different men have reached the top since the computer rankings were begun in 1973, only nine of those players have finished the year on top: Die Nastase, Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl, Mats Wilander, Stefan Edberg, Jim Courier



ICE DANCE — France's Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat emoting Tuesday at the World Figure Skating Championships. Russians Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsianikov led after the first day. The French tied for second with Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz of Canada.

and Pete Sampras. That is superb company, all the better when you consider who isn't there: Boris Becker, Andre Agassi, John Newcombe, Marcelo Rios or, at least not yet, Carlos Moya.

BEING A FAIR judge in figure skating has become easier. For the first time in a world championship, the nine judges sitting rinkside in Helsinki have access to video replays at their seats that can help them confirm whether a pair's spin combination was flawless or whether a skater landed on two feet instead of one.

This is part of a continuing and laudable effort to reduce the judging discrepancies that have often done a disservice to the sport.

For now, the video on demand is available only for the ice dancing compulsory and the short programs for pairs and men's and women's singles. Those programs contain required elements or, in the case of ice dancing, required sequences, that can be quickly identified and quickly made accessible on video.

The judges are not required to take a second look, but many of them do. At the recent European championships, a solid majority made use of the system, and if on Monday and Tuesday it did occasionally lengthen the time before scores

were posted in Helsinki, isn't it better to be slow and right than quick and wrong?

TOGETHER, Alberto Tomba and Deborah Compagnoni made alpine skiing a major spectator sport in Italy. Now, Compagnoni has followed Tomba into retirement, surrendering the snow to the Austrians whose dominance helped influence her decision to move on.

The sport may never recover completely in Italy, but the International Ski Federation does have an idea that could help promote winter sports there and elsewhere.

Traditionally, World Cup finals in the various winter disciplines are scattered throughout Europe, North America and Asia, but next March, the FIS will bring them together in Bormio, Italy, and its surrounding region during the same week. It will be a Winter Olympics in miniature with snowboarders and alpine, cross-country and freestyle skiers all sharing the spotlight.

IT IS difficult to know how to define Breitling Orbiter-3's successful balloon trip around the world. Was it a sporting or a technological achievement?

The debate is open, but Richard Branson, the British mogul, believes the next step should be the creation of a sporting event. Branson, who tried and failed to make the journey that Bertrand Picard and Brian Jones successfully completed on Sunday, wants to have a biennial round-the-world balloon race that would involve teams from all over the world.

THIS IS supposed to be the year of Marion Jones, the American sprinter and long jumper who is aiming for four gold medals in August at the world track and field championships. She did nothing to change that impression last week in South Africa when she opened her season by running 200 meters in 21.84 seconds into a headwind. It was her fourth-fastest time over the distance.

There is a dichotomy between Bayern Munich, whose form has been so imperious that all-time Bundesliga records keep falling to it, and the national team.

Balkan Wars Intrude On Nationalistic Sport

One Game Is Moved, and Two Are on Hold

By Rob Hughes
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — With untimely precision, three of the 20 qualifying games this weekend toward Euro 2000 were scheduled for Macedonia, Yugoslavia and the troubled Russian republic of North Ossetia.

The bomb that killed 60 people in Vladikavkaz, the capital of North Ossetia, on Friday caused Russia to move its match against Andorra to the relative

EUROPEAN SOCCER

security of Moscow. On Tuesday, with the situation in the Balkans deteriorating, UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, postponed a decision over whether the contests between Yugoslavia and Croatia in Belgrade, and between Macedonia and the Republic of Ireland in Skopje, Macedonia, should be played.

"It's sad that people are being killed in that part of the world," said Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager. "I'm no hero, and I wouldn't think for one second that the powers that be would ask us to travel if there was a risk. But while we wait, I have to prepare players for a football match."

Not for the first time, sports and the deadly realities of the Balkans conflict are on a collision course. It may seem limp to point out that Savo Milosevic and Davor Suker, goalscorers of Serbia and Croatia, are mercenaries not of war but of sports, and a few years ago, they were being groomed for the one Yugoslav national squad.

Strange times indeed for those who cherish soccer for the way it crosses boundaries and cultures. Strange, also, that the remaining 17 encounters form a rite of spring in which it is an accepted practice for nationalism to ride on a sports outcome.

In Ukraine, for example, the head of state proudly identified himself last week on the side of Dynamo Kiev — which was urged to call by its Ukrainian name, Kyiv — as that club eliminated Real Madrid from the UEFA Champions League. Andrei Shevchenko, a true native of Kiev, scored the goals, assisted by Sergei Rebrov, a Russian adopted in the Ukraine capital.

Come Saturday, fitness permitting, comrades Shevchenko and Rebrov will team together for Ukraine. And what a duel it promises to be with these two running at Marcel Desailly and Laurent Blanc at the heart of the French defense in the Stade de France.

France is champion of the world. It is understandable that players of the pedigree of Shevchenko, a striker whose fortune appears already assigned to AC Milan this summer, seek to test their mettle against the best. For others who thought they were best, the bells are tolling.

Germany, the defending European master, has a difficult trip Saturday to Belfast, where Northern Ireland awaits, not rich in soccer resources but obdurate whenever the Germans come. Anywhere is testing to Erich Ribbeck's German side following its ignominious 3-0 loss to the United States SA a month ago.

There is a dichotomy between Bayern Munich, whose form has been so imperious that all-time Bundesliga records keep falling to it, and the national team.

"The best Bayern team in 20 years" and the "worst German team in memory" are quotes ascribed to Franz Beckenbauer, the president of Bayern Munich and the trainer of Germany when it bestrode the world at the start of this decade. Yet both rely on the same players; eight Munich team members were selected for national duty this week.

These do not include Stefan Effenberg, whose strength and midfield commitment spur Bayern, but who declines to play for Germany. They do include Lothar Matthaus, who turned 38 years young this week. But there is around the national camp either an indifference or a neurosis when the Muncheners change shirts that needs to be addressed if the country is even to qualify for Euro 2000.

Germany's oldest sporting foe, England, is under new management for the third time in three matches. Kevin Keegan stands head and shoulders beneath the likes of Tony Adams, David Seaman and Alan Shearer. Yet he, dubbed Mighty Mouse when he performed for Hamburg, is their boss.

For the next four England games, at a personal fee of £50,000 (\$81,400) a contest, Keegan is doubling up on his full-time job trying to raise Fulham, owned by Mohamed Al Fayed, who also owns Harrods, from the lower divisions.

"When I am with England," the Mighty Mouse has roared, "I will give 1,000 percent."

The key, he concedes, is that players give 100 percent, and Keegan, never the swiftest or the most naturally blessed player but one who once gave up a cause in scoring 21 times in 63 matches for his country, will try to enthrone his chosen players with his indomitable spirit.

KEEGAN KNOWS less about defense than he does about attack. He commits players to cavalier tactics. He will look to the players as the anthems are played, for he believes it is how players line up to "God Save the Queen" that gives an England team its well, its Englishness.

That, in bygone times, used to scare opponents. Poland, visitors Saturday to Wembley, has players who may not be put out of their stride by a bit of patriotic fervor. In the final games under coach Glenn Hoddle, England's morale and belief visibly wilted, and when that happens the ordinariness of the English — the lack of outstanding creative players and the dependence on teenage icon Michael Owen — is obvious.

Hoddle, with his faith healer, has gone. So has his attempt to realign the English in the style of Germany. If one player ignored by Hoddle but chosen by Keegan fits the new bill, it is Arsenal's pugnacious wing-back Ray Parlour. It is said that Parlour's chances under Hoddle disappeared when Eileen Drewery, Hoddle's spiritualist guru, laid hands on his head and asked what he needed.

"Short back and sides!" the player supposedly joked, a reference to a particularly English haircut. Did he really say that? Parlour's gray eyes reveal mischief and humor. "Allegedly," he answered. If he makes his debut for England against Poland he sure Parlour will give 1,000 percent for the new Messiah.

Rob Hughes is chief sports writer of The Times of London.

THE INTERMARKET

GENERAL

Personals

MAY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS be added, purified, sweet and favored. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. Saint Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. Saint Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Amen. Say this prayer nine times a day, by the rich day you pray will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be requested. THANK YOU SAINT JUDGE AND SAINT ANTHONY for all prayers answered. Please continue to look after us. JOT.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART OF JESUS for prayers answered. A.G.

Personals

O HOLY ST JUDGE, apostle and martyr, great in virtue and rich in miracles, new friend of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in times of need. To you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg you, to whom God has given such great power, to come to my assistance. Help me in my present urgent position. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. St Jude pray for me and all who invoke your aid. Humbly in need of your intercession. Amen. Thank you for answering my prayers.

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POSTCARD

A Lift for Italian Film

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

ROME — It was 4 A.M. when the news hit the Casa del Popolo, a social center in Vergato, Roberto Benigni's hometown in Tuscany. As a giant screen, set up for the evening, showed the Italian filmmaker joyously bounding up onto the backs of seats at the Academy Awards ceremony, thousands of local supporters outside the Casa del Popolo jumped up and down and screamed "Ha vinto!" ("He won!") in a perfect synchrony of excitement.

By winning three Oscars for "Life Is Beautiful," his comedy set during the Holocaust, Italy's most popular comic became the country's most important movie figure overnight. For Italian cinema, which has been in an artistic and commercial slump for many years, Benigni's recognition by Hollywood was a badly needed shot in the arm.

A few other Italian films, like "Cinema Paradiso" and "Medicine," have won the award for best foreign film. "Life Is Beautiful," however, was not just a critical success but also a commercial one: the biggest box office success in the United States of any Italian film yet.

Perhaps most important, Benigni, 46, is the first non-English speaker to win the best-actor award. Only a few Italian actresses have won similar honors: Anna Magnani won a best-actress award for a 1955 Hollywood film, "The Rose Tattoo."

Sophia Loren also won an Oscar for best actress, for the Italian film "Two Women" in 1961. On Sunday night, when Loren presented Benigni with his Oscar for best foreign film, she joyously

shouted, "Roberto!" when she opened the envelope.

In Italy, it was almost as if Italy had won a World Cup soccer match. Benigni's Oscars led all the news programs, with such descriptions as "historical event" and a "triumph for Italy."

Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema expressed "his great personal satisfaction" with Benigni's success. "This is an honor for Italian cinema and culture, as well as a great personal success for Benigni," D'Alema said.

Italian film critics mostly saw it as a long-needed jolt for other Italian directors. "The film is an extraordinary phenomenon," said Tullio Kezich, a film critic for the daily Corriere della Sera. "Very few Italian films are critically acclaimed and also do well in the international market, and Benigni has shown that it can be done. The question is whether other directors will learn the lesson."

Some Italian directors expressed gratitude to Benigni, saying his success could help revive the Italian film world. "After 8 to 10 years of crisis, in which there was widespread disaffection toward our cinema, which was sincerely mediocre," said Gillo Pontecorvo, the director of "The Battle of Algiers" in 1966. "This overwhelming success is a positive sign that comes at a time where we see fragile signs of renewal."

The playwright Dario Fo, who won the 1997 Nobel Prize in Literature, said he was proud of Benigni's victory. "He has shown that laughter is not a lack of seriousness," Fo said. "On the contrary, irony and lightness are one of the highest forms of intelligence."

Living on the Periphery, Longing to Be Inside

By Rachel L. Swarns
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — He is wry and witty, the very picture of a promising young playwright, with his blue jeans, his black leather jacket and his California cool. But in his mind's eye, he is still clumsy and awkward, a gawky crow craving acceptance from a tribe of sparrows. And it is this metaphor, he says, that best reflects his existence as a gay Chinese-American writer struggling to succeed in a white world.

"It's how I see myself in America, living on the periphery and longing to be in the midst of it," said Chay Yew, 33, one of a handful of critically acclaimed Asian-American writers working in the theater in this country.

"It's like when you go to a bar," said Yew, whose newest play, "Red," was opening Tuesday at the Manhattan Theater Club Stage 2. "You see all these guys. They're having a good time and you want to be like them. But you know you never can. I've learned to actually say, 'It's O.K. to be who you are.' But it hasn't been easy."

For years, he said, he felt pressured — by Americans and by Asians — to be someone he was not. His parents urged him to abandon art for medicine. A white professor refused to cast him in a college show because he didn't "look the part."

When he started writing plays, some Asian-American artists rallied against his gay themes. The actors refused to audition. A theater board member quit in protest. And Yew's blood began to boil. From that fury, "Red" was born. The play, directed by David Petrarca, explores the Cultural Revolution in China and the brutal crackdown on artists that began in the 1960s. It reflects Yew's outrage at society's efforts to rein in his own artistic sensibilities, and he said, at Republicans in Congress who have sought to regulate artists by reducing support for the National Endowment for the Arts.

In "Red," the ghost of a Peking

Opera star haunts an abandoned theater in Shanghai, where he was murdered for refusing to recast his songs for the Communist regime. He is discovered by Sonja Wong Pickford, a Chinese-American romance author who writes such bodice-rippers as "Love in the Jade Pagoda" and "Bound Feet, Bound Lives." She visits the theater to research her first serious book and ends up coming to terms with herself, her art and her history.

Yew's earlier plays include the well-received "A Language of Their Own," about gay men struggling with relationships, AIDS and society. "Red" takes on government censorship and also critiques Asian-American artists who censor themselves and their stories to appeal to Western and Asian audiences. Yew pokes fun at artists who exoticize the Asian experience with clanging gongs, silk robes and weeping women rescued by handsome white Americans. "I call them 'Chinky-American' experience plays," and I hate them," he said cheerfully.

When it was pointed out that gongs, somersaults and rapidly unfurling red silk curtains figure prominently in "Red," he grinned and said, "But I destroy them all by the second act."

David Henry Hwang, perhaps America's most prominent Asian-American playwright, said that today more young writers were using their ethnicity as a point of entry to explore broader issues beyond identity. Hwang mentioned Yew and Diana Son, who wrote "Stop Kiss," a widely praised play about a brutal attack on a gay woman, recently seen at the Joseph Papp Public Theater. The play depicts the budding romance between two women, one white and one Asian, but never discusses race.

"For a lot of writers in my generation it was a new idea to think of ourselves as Asian-American, and that's what we focused on," said Hwang, who won a Tony Award in 1988 for his play "M. Butterfly." "The younger generation sees it



Chay Yew: A crow craving acceptance from a tribe of sparrows.

simply as one piece in the larger mosaic. And Chay is the most powerful voice out of this wave of Asian-American playwrights."

Yew, whose home is in Los Angeles, said he still felt like an outsider in America and in Singapore, where he was born and lived until he was 16. But increasingly, he said, he uses "a larger canvas."

"There will always be elements of gayness and Asian-American-ness in my work," he said. "But I think I'm concerned with the world a lot more. After the 60s and 70s, there was this questioning of who and what we are, where we come from. In the 90s, we say to ourselves, 'We now know who we are, but how do we live with ourselves and the world at large?'"

To explore the issues of art and censorship, Yew had only to look at his own life. When he was a boy, his grandmother took him to Chinese street operas in Singapore,

where actors erected stages in markets and old men painted their faces to become warriors or concubines. It was his first taste of the theater.

Growing up under an authoritarian government in Singapore, Yew was aware of the power of censorship. But as a teenager at Pepperdine University in California, he learned the power of censorship first hand, he said, when a professor refused him a part because he was Asian. Yew recalled: "I told him, 'You think I'm going to be playing 'The King and I' for the rest of my life? No way.'"

In Singapore, where he staged his first play in 1987, government censors rejected the work because it included a gay character. Yew rewrote the play, eliminating obvious references to the character's sexuality, but encouraged the actor playing the part to hint at the character's sexual preference. And in Los Angeles, during auditions in 1995

for "A Language of Their Own," he found himself forced to post special signs so Asian actors would know what they were getting into. "They were coming in and saying, 'It's gay?' and walking out," Yew said. "So we had to put up a sign, like a warning: 'Gay-themed play. It made me so angry.'"

Perhaps the most painful for Yew was the reaction of his father, who refused to discuss his son's homosexuality or to see any of his plays. Yew said, adding that his father has since apologized for missing them.

Despite the obstacles, or because of them, Yew developed an authorial voice. Speaking of "A Language of Their Own," which had its first reading in New York at the Public Theater, George Wolfe, the theater's producer, said: "Chay finds the intimacy in the characters and the language. And that's what affects people. You find yourself in it."

Praise for Yew's work has not been universal. Tsai Chin, who played Auntie Lindo in the film "The Joy Luck Club," gave Yew the idea for "Red" when he told her he wanted to write about censorship. She shared the story of her father, a Chinese opera singer who played male roles and was purged during the Cultural Revolution.

But in the end, she complained, Yew employed the very stereotypes he deplores, creating a male character who performs as a woman and playing into Western stereotypes of Asian-American men as effeminate.

"People tend to put emphasis on the female impersonator because that's the only thing Western people understand," Chin said by telephone from Los Angeles. "It's perpetuating the cliché. It's exactly what I didn't want to happen. I wanted a good playwright to project another image of Chinese art."

Yew said he used "familiar" images in the first act of "Red" so he could destroy them later to make larger points about censorship, father-daughter relations and art. And he dedicated "Red" to Chin, even though she dislikes the play. He is, after all, no stranger to criticism.

PEOPLE

THE rapper ODB is in trouble again. The 30-year-old singer for the Wu-Tang Clan was arrested in New York on Monday on misdemeanor drug charges after the police stopped his car and found a small amount of crack cocaine, a police spokesman said. ODB, whose real name is Russell Jones, was convicted of second-degree assault in New York in 1993. He was arrested last month in Los Angeles when he parked in a no-parking zone and the police found he was wearing a bulletproof vest. A state law bans felons from wearing body armor.

Mary Jo Buttafuoco and Amy Fisher have made up. Buttafuoco has forgiven the woman who had an affair with her husband, Joey, and shot her in the head in 1992. Buttafuoco and Fisher began writing in each other more than six months ago. "At this stage, forgiveness is appropriate," Buttafuoco told the New York Post from West Hills, California, where she lives with her husband. She also supports a deal that might hasten Fisher's release from pris-

on. Fisher, 24, is serving a five- to 15-year sentence for the shooting.

A mansion bought by Queen Elizabeth II for the Duchess of York and her two daughters has been put up for sale for £1.5 million (\$2.44 million) after she refused to move into it, newspapers in

London reported Tuesday. The Daily Mail said the queen had lost patience with wrangling over the duchess's new seven-bedroom home and put it up for sale without telling her former daughter-in-law, who claimed she could not afford its upkeep. Unidentified royal aides were quoted as saying Fergie, as the duchess is popularly known, was

angling for more divorce money from her former husband, Prince Andrew.

Princess Cristina, daughter of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain, is expecting her first child in October, the royal palace said Monday. The princess married the handball player Inaki Urdangarin in Barcelona in 1997.

After partying with Madonna and other glitterati at a post-Oscars party, Monica Lewinsky ended her homecoming tour by signing books for hundreds of people at a Brentano's bookstore in the Century City district west of downtown. More than 400 people clutched copies of "Monica's Story" waited for up to eight hours Monday. "I think it's a circus, but I'm proud to be a member of this circus," said Adolfo Ramirez, who was skipping college classes. The night before, Lewinsky was the toast of the Vanity Fair post-Oscar party, chatting with star after star — the famous lining up to meet the infamous.

A Writer Takes 'Shakespeare' to Court

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An author is suing the makers of the Oscar-winning film "Shakespeare in Love," claiming they stole the tale of a love-lorn bard from her 1989 Elizabethan-era novel "The Quality of Mercy." Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard won the Oscar for best original screenplay Sunday night. Faye Kellerman sued in federal court on March 16, less than a week before the Academy Awards. "It's interesting that it won the award, but as I said in the complaint it should have been for best adapted screenplay," said Barry Novak, Kellerman's attorney. Named in the lawsuit are Norman and Stoppard, Miramax Film Corp., Universal City Studios and the script's publisher, Hyperion Press.

"The Quality of Mercy" is about Shakespeare's effort to solve a friend's murder while his love-interest, who masquerades as a man, helps Jews flee the Spanish Inquisition, according to a review from Publisher's Weekly.



OSCAR FETE — From left, Steven Spielberg, Harrison Ford and the producer David Geffen at a DreamWorks/Paramount party in Los Angeles.



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